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THURSDAY, APRIL 30TH, 2015

Bridge repairs delayed by a month at St Bride's
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Pages 21-23

Van About Town
For top quality and a service second to none, take advantage of 'Van About Town'

Porthcawl school's musical successes
Page 5

Piece of town's history is found... in the Med!

A PIECE of Bridgend's history has been discovered - 73 years after it sank into the depths of the Mediterranean Sea!

by PHILIP IRWIN

During World War Two, townsfolk in Bridgend raised £300,000 - £12 million in today's money - to build a submarine to aid

the war effort. As a result of this phenomenal fundraising effort, a U-class submarine - named HMS Urge - was built in 1941 and sent to the Mediterranean to support the war in North Africa.

However, the story of HMS Urge was not a lengthy one, and it ended in tragedy and mystery, rather than glory.

On April 27, 1942, the submarine left Malta for Alexandria on the north coast of Egypt, and was never seen again. All 39 on board were never seen again.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

CHILDREN JUMP FOR JOY AS THEY CELEBRATE FOURTH GREEN FLAG!



St Brides Major Primary's eco committee celebrate the renewal of their Eco-Schools Green Flag.

ST Brides Major Primary School has joined an elite group of eco schools in Wales by clinching the Platinum Eco-Schools award.

Led by Mrs Decker and its eco committee of pupils, it has been presented with the accolade after picking up its fourth Eco-Schools Green Flag.

To mark its application for the platinum award, the school's eco committee created a bug hotel on the

school grounds and celebrated all of the school's green achievements.

Mrs Decker said: "The Platinum Eco-Schools award is a prestigious accolade that marks our continued dedication to the environment, we're absolutely delighted".

Headteacher Mr D Mottram said: "Our school is very proud to be called a Platinum Eco-School."

"The children in the eco committee have worked really hard at making our school greener, so it's great that their hard work has been rewarded."

PROTESTS AT LOCAL COLLEGE OVER CUTS

STUDENTS and staff at Bridgend College protested last week against "huge cuts" imposed by the Welsh Government.

Simon Pirotte, principal and chief executive officer at the college, said: "This news is devastating, as last year was the most successful in the college's history, with student achievement at an all-time high."

SEE A FULL REPORT ON PAGE 7

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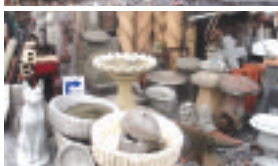
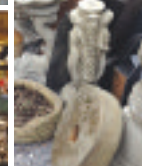
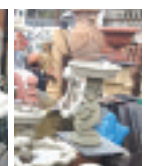
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Does your community group need funding?

BRIDGEND Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) is holding a funding surgery with Coalfields Regeneration Trust on Thursday, May 14, from 2pm in BAVO's offices in Maesteg.

Those attending must book an appointment. The Coalfields Regeneration Trust offers from £500 up to £7,000 for community groups, voluntary organisations, charities, and social enterprises that can demonstrate that a grant will impact positively on people living in Coalfield Regeneration Trust communities with a project that can be completed within 12 months and can identify clear positive outcomes

for people that can be measured.

If your group works in, or benefits people living in Bettws, Ynysawdre, Blackmill, Llangeinor, Blaengarw, Pontycymer, Caerau, Maesteg West, Maesteg East, Nantyllyfyllon, Nantymoel or Ogmore Vale you may be eligible for Coalfields Regeneration Trust funding!

This funding surgery is by appointment only. If you would like to apply for a one-to-one appointment, visit the funding news section of www.bavo.org.uk to download and complete the first stage enquiry form. If you are eligible, BAVO will contact you to confirm your appointment.

For further details contact BAVO on 01656 810400 or email bavo@bavo.org.uk

Police use football to tackle anti-social behaviour

A PROJECT aimed at tackling underage drinking and anti-social behaviour on the streets of Caerau is using football to bring the message home.

Beat Street is an initiative for young people in Caerau, where PCSO Molly Llewellyn and colleagues have been building up relationships with teenagers.

"The aim of Beat Street is for PCSOs to work with 10 to 18-year-olds in the area who are at risk of misusing alcohol, encouraging them to take part in outdoor activities," she explained.

"There is a big element of anti-social behaviour, which is more pronounced, with large groups of teenagers on the streets. By and large, most members of the public in the wider Maesteg area are oblivious to these issues, but something simple like bringing young people from Caerau together for football recently has been very significant.

"To those looking in from the outside, it is just a game of football on a Friday night, but we are breaking down barriers with the local teenagers. We hope that we may be able to scope the project out into something more sizeable.

"We are trying to use an impartial approach to tackle underage alcohol abuse by trying to get a relationship going with

these teenagers. The first few weeks of the Beat Street Project has been running well and we are beginning to see results.

"Our main objective is to engage with the teenagers, reduce their use of alcohol and encourage their self confidence.

"An important part of Beat Street's work is reducing the fear of alcohol-related violence and disorder by teenagers in the Caerau community."

PCSO Llewellyn continued: "There isn't much tolerance for teenagers in communities, especially if they are hanging about a street corner or in a group. This is often intimidating to other residents.

"A lot of these teenagers are hanging around on the streets with their friends because they don't have anywhere else to go.

"Drink-fuelled anti-social behaviour isn't the only thing we have to address. Through the Beat Street Project, we are also aiming to educate teenagers on the potential risk to their health that drinking alcohol creates.

"With the help of our partner agencies and organisations, such as Noddffa Youth Centre, we are able to offer support to young people so that they not only keep on the right side of the law but also avoid a pathway to ill health."

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER.

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Message was 'peace and love' – ENGLISH WOULD HAVE HELPED

YOUR article 'Black and White flag in Main Street puzzles residents' (The GEM, April 23), about a black flag with white Arabic lettering raised above an empty shop in Barry caught my eye. I can read and understand Arabic.

I thought the journalistic standard could have been better. I can understand residents being concerned, obviously they didn't know what the writing said, but the newspaper should have got it right.

The words on the flag say 'Peace and Love', it's very clear.

The script is SALAM WA HUB (Peace and Love); not as the article goes on to suggest 'Islam is One', which would be ISLAM WAHID – barely even close.

Google translate gets it right, if one knows Arabic script.

Why the flag was put there is anybody's guess, but clearly done to provoke a reaction.

I like to think a sense of irony was intended – very lost here if that was the case!

I agree an attached English translation would have helped, perhaps with the addition of a rainbow, flowers and some white doves.

Let us not let the group that calls itself 'ISIS' steal the rights to white Arabic script on a black background, and the preferred term for said organisation should be DAESH, a rough acronym in Arabic, being used by Arab media and normal people across the Arab world, and elsewhere that

'Fifty-three seconds over... and we got parking fine'

ON February 20 my GP sent me to Llandough Hospital owing to heart problems.

My daughter took me and stayed with me. After tests, I was admitted to the cardiac ward. I hold a disabled badge and we parked in the disabled bay.

On March 2 she received a notice of a fine of £70 or £40 if paid promptly for over-stopping four hours by just 53 seconds. When we arrived we were both distressed, I didn't see the notice.

It didn't cross her mind to leave me until they found me a bed. I thought parking is free.

A private firm in Crawley had the money, not Llandough Hospital. Being ill is distressing enough without this.

One good word, all the staff were wonderful. Mrs Audrey Shell, Barry.

'More facilities needed for influx of residents'

BEFORE Edwina Hart slaps herself on the back for selling 98 acres of land in Coity to a housing developer, can I ask if she has any plans to increase hospital beds at the Princess of Wales or build new schools to accommodate the influx of residents?

Persimmon managing director states he is eager to support economic growth, describing Bridgend as a 'thriving' town.

Perhaps he last visited Bridgend 40 years ago, when the town really did thrive before the heart of it was ripped out by short-sighted town planners. Mary Webber, Kenfig Hill.

delegitimises their false claims to be a state or a religion.

Let us not fall into the trap of those that wish to sow discord and division. Name and address supplied.

GEM NOTE: In the time available, The GEM contacted two organisations to provide an exact translation, but neither came back with an answer.

MEANING OF BLACK FLAG

WITH reference to the article in The GEM last week about the black flag on High Street, Barry, the flag wording does not translate as 'Islam is one' as reported.

The Arabic words, phonetically, are 'salaam wa hubb' which means 'peace and love'.

This correct translation was mentioned early in the article, but it ended up

with the impression that the flag said 'Islam is one'. My husband is a fluent Arabic speaker and scholar, and I have taken Arabic as well, and we both can vouch that the first-mentioned translation was correct. The black background of the 'wall-hanging' was reminiscent of specific black banners that have been used by recent extremist movements, but this one, although the same background color, is different.

Catherine B Hanafi, Barry.

Stalin just like Hitler

IN his GEM letter last week, Mr Short referred to the Soviet sacrifice in World War Two.

He does not refer to the fact that Stalin was Hitler's ally from 1939-1941, allied with him in invading Poland, and supplied the Nazis with huge amounts of raw materials, as well as a secret base for intelligence in the

Arctic.

The Soviet Union and Stalin were at war because Hitler was stupid enough to attack them in 1941. No amount of heroism from the Red Army excuses this, let alone their seizure of the Baltic States and brutal attack on Finland.

Stalin was merely a Russian version of Hitler. Brian Morris, Barry.

Come down hard on firestarters

G RASS fires have been all over the Welsh media in the last couple of weeks, highlighting what is a very serious problem for South Wales Police, the fire service and other professionals involved.

I've seen pictures of the fire which started in Stalling Down and it's important for us to be aware locally that this isn't just a problem affecting the Valleys.

These fires are not just damaging to the local environment and potentially dangerous in

their own right, they tie up fire crews for hours trying to put them out.

This week in the Assembly I asked the minister to look into close monitoring of social media sites like Twitter and Facebook, because experience tells us that idiots will brag to their friends. It's sad that this discussion needs to happen at all, because this kind of behaviour is completely mindless and frankly embarrassing.

Like many of you I hope that the police come down exceptionally hard on anyone found to have been involved.

Andrew RT Davies, Regional AM.

Who wants to build what and where?

ASDA Stores Limited – Coychurch Road, Bridgend – New signage associated with 'click and collect' service.

Chunky Monkeys Day Nursery – Side wall of 4 Sunnyside Road, Bridgend – Non-illuminated advertising sign.

Starbucks Coffee Company – Land at Waterton Retail Park, Bridgend – New signage to Starbucks drive through.

Mr H Lewis – Danygraig Farm, Elder Drive, Porthcawl – Convert derelict farm building to holiday accommodation; amendment to P/12/512/FUL.

Infinite Sirius – Haregrove Farm, Laleston – Alternative internal access track to the consented wind turbine.

Mr Paul Skinner – Former Bethany Chapel, Hermon Road, Maesteg – Single storey extension to north elevation for warehousing of goods.

Valleys to Coast – Pen y Bryn Flats, Bryntirion – New entrance/exit porch to blocks of flats and new rear sheds and landscaping.

ASDA Stores Limited – Coychurch Road, Bridgend – Erection of a customer 'click and collect' canopy and new colleague door.

Woodstock Homes – Land at City Farm, Bettws Road, Bettws – Erect eight dwellings to substitute plots 3-10 (incl) approved under consent P/06/1465/FUL.

Mr Richard Lewis – 25 Bryn Henfaes, Broadlands – Two

storey extension to side of property plus addition of second storey to rear single storey structure.

Mr and Mrs Pedrazzini – 25 Ty Gwyn Drive, Brackla – Two storey side extension.

David O'Shea – 29 Grove Street, Nantyllyfyllon, Maesteg – Second storey addition over existing kitchen.

Mr C and Mrs N James – 89 Westward Place, Llangeinor Court, Bridgend – Two storey extension to side of property to provide additional living accommodation.

Mr Richard Lee – 5 Robins Hill, Brackla – Proposed single storey extension and garage.

Wales and West Housing Association – Danyminydd, Heol William Trigg, Blaengarw – Construct two new first floor timber framed link structures.

Mr A Ellerman – Former petrol station, Bridgend Road, Maesteg – Relax standard condition to extend time period for commencement of P/10/378/FUL (five dwellings).

Miss E V Thomas – 32 Parc y Berllan, Porthcawl – Convert existing study/store/garage into bedroom with ensuite.

Natural Resources Wales – Swansea Bay, Swansea – Marine licence application for removal of Scarweather Sands meteorological mast.

Mrs E Woolley – 129 Park Street, Bridgend – Widening of existing vehicular crossover and creation of hardstanding.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MAY 7)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
30 Thur	04.54	8.2	17.19	8.4
01 Fri	05.37	8.6	17.59	8.8
02 Sat	06.18	9.0	18.37	9.1
03 Sun	06.54	9.2	19.11	9.4
04 Mon	07.27	9.5	19.46	9.6
05 Tues	07.59	9.7	20.17	9.7
06 Wed	08.35	9.5	20.52	9.6
07 Thur	09.12	9.4	21.29	9.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

Shock for St Bride's Major as bridge repair work is extended

TRADERS and residents in St Bride's Major were given bad news last week when Network Rail announced that work a railway bridge would have to be extended by about four weeks.

It means that the work, which has closed the bridge between Ewenny and St Bride's Major, will not be completed until the end of July.

In a letter to traders and residents, Network Rail said: "Due to unforeseen circumstances, we haven't completed the volume of work that we had anticipated by this point in the programme. "Unfortunately the

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

ground and rock-cutting conditions at the site were more challenging than expected. This has resulted in an essential alteration to the design of the foundations for the structure."

Mark Lewis, the landlord of the Fox and Hounds in St Bride's Major, told The GEM that it was a bitter blow.

He said: "The bridge closure has cut the passing trade down to zero, and we are well down on last year.

"I know other traders have been affected too, and to find that the work is going on for another month is really tough."

He added that the traders had made no

progress on the matter of compensation for lost business as a result of the bridge repairs, which are budgeted at £1.9 million.

He said: "We have been told we have no right to passing trade. Hopefully, this extra delay might bring about a change in attitude."

Alun Cairns, the Conservative parliamentary candidate in the Vale, said:

"Network Rail should be placing immediate and substantial resource into ensuring that any slippage in project time can be made up.

"It is unacceptable for such disruption to local people living many miles around the bridge to be lengthened."

Staff remember colleague Hugh with brain charity partnership



EMPLOYEES at a Bridgend construction firm have chosen Brain Tumour Research as their charity partner for the second year running – in memory of a much-loved colleague who died following

his battle with brain cancer.

Hugh Walker, a former Jehu Group foreman, from Bridgend died at the age of 46. He was the father of four children, Josh, Naomi, George and Jasmine, and husband to Amanda.

In Hugh's memory, Jehu Group raised over £10,000 last year for Brain Tumour Research.

This year, the company has doubled its fundraising target to £20,000.

Brain Tumour Research helps fund an annual £1 million programme of research at its Centre of Excellence at the University of Portsmouth. Further partnerships announced in 2014 will pave the way for a £20 million investment in brain tumour research over the next five years.

Chairman of the family-owned Jehu Group, René Jehu, invited the firm's 110 employees to nominate charities for consideration and two organisations close to the hearts of employees were suggested; Brain Tumour Research and Y

Bwthyn Newydd. While Brain Tumour Research is the dedicated charity for the year, Y Bwthyn Newydd, a palliative support centre for patients and families locally in Bridgend, will also receive a £1,000 donation from Jehu.

With ambitious plans to raise over £20,000 this year, Jehu has created a calendar of events which includes a triathlon, a skydive and a Welsh three peaks challenge with three generations of the Jehu family planning to take part in all events.

Tasked with announcing the final decision, René Jehu, said: "We were overwhelmed with the number of nominations for this year's selected

charity in memory of Hugh. While it was an incredibly close decision, the vote was in the majority for Brain Tumour Research and we are looking forward to partnering with them again.

"Brain Tumour Research does some great work funding research into brain tumours. The tragic loss of our friend highlighted to us that brain tumours are not the same as other cancers and research funding into the disease lags behind others.

"We are determined to beat last year's total, and have doubled our fundraising target to £20,000 helping the charity boost their investment into research at their centres of excellence."

THE ZONE IS VERY BUSY!

A BRIDGEND mentoring scheme is offering a range of information and useful courses to people in the area from its base in the town centre.

group (Friday 10am-12pm)

• Young people's clubs (Tuesday and Thursday – fun, games and refreshments).

For further information, call in or telephone 01656 649378.

At the Bridge Mentoring Plus scheme, 46-48, Dunraven Place, 'the Zone' is a family centre set up to support the community and is open daily to provide advice and guidance on a range of topics, in an informal coffee lounge area.

A spokeswoman said: "We can help with job searching, CV development, parenting advice from toddlers to teenagers, money management, nutrition, sign posting to other agencies, youth services, and much more.

"A meeting room, kitchen, and coffee shop area is also available for hire 01656 649378."

The Zone is open six days a week (Monday to Saturday) from 10am to 2pm, except Wednesday, which is 10am to 1pm.

Courses on offer include: Anger management; confidence building; parenting skills; nutrition and healthy eating; stress control; and interview skills.

For further information on these courses please call in or telephone 01656 649378.

A number of weekly groups meet at the centre. These are:

- Knit and Natter (Tuesday 10am-2pm).
- Cuppa with a copper (last Thursday of every month).
- Free book lending.
- Parent and baby/toddler group (Wednesdays, 1pm-3pm).
- Cuppa and a chat

CLUBS MEET FOR JOINT DAY OF FELLOWSHIP



ROTARY Club members from Bridgend and Cheltenham recently enjoyed a joint day of fellowship when they met at the Coach and Horses in Llangynidr, near Crickhowell on a Saturday morning.

New president announced at Soroptimist Club



AT the recent AGM held at The Heronston Hotel outgoing president Cathie Rowe installed Bethan Healey as president of Bridgend Soroptimist Club for the coming year.

New president Bethan thanked Cathie for all her hard work during her year and said how much she was looking forward to a busy programme herself and that fundraising would be for the benefit of Barnardo's.

EB

This gave an opportunity to provide the pub with lunch orders and also to meet before setting out on a walk at 11am.

The four-and-a-half mile, two-hour walk was ably led by a Cheltenham member, and covered road, fields and a very pleasant canal path before returning to the pub, where a very good lunch was enjoyed.

The presidents of both clubs expressed their appreciation for this combined fellowship. A Bridgend member provided instructions and guidance on how to proceed to the Sugarloaf Vineyard, where everyone met at around 3pm. This provided time for refreshments, a DIY tour of the vines and also, an opportunity to sample four of the wines.

The successful and enjoyable day ended, for a few, with dinner at the Angel Hotel in Abergavenny. **WRW**

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Medieval music concert held in Ewenny Priory



A 'MEDIEVAL Miscellany' – the latest in the series of Ewenny 900 concerts, took place in Ewenny Priory Church on Thursday, April 23.

Medieval music in its diverse forms was the focus provided by the St Donats' Chamber Choir under the musical direction of Wendy York, and ContraBand, experts on a range of instruments including the shawm, hurdy gurdy and hammered dulcimer, as well as percussion and bagpipes.

It was a real musical treat with the rousing marching tones and vibrancy of the musicians complemented by the lilting tones and harmonies of the choir.

For those who missed this rare opportunity there will be another chance at a Medieval Fair in the Priory grounds on Saturday, July 18.

Details of this and other Ewenny 900 events may be found on the Ewenny Festival website and Facebook pages.

AF

Pupils in line for red card award



Pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr in Bridgend have made it through to the finals of a national anti-racism competition. They are pictured here with teacher Kerry-Anne Mort.

PUPILS from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr in Bridgend are finalists in a national arts competition organised by the anti-racism charity 'Show Racism the Red Card'.

Pupils from more than 70 schools across Wales took part in the competition by sending in their designs for posters, t-shirts, short films and poems that all had a strong anti-racism message.

The winners will be revealed at an awards ceremony in Cardiff next week, and Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr pupils have made it through to the finals in two categories.

Year-4 pupil Kelyn Wells will find out if

her poster design will be a prize winner, while her classmates Iolo John, Elen Gruffydd, Hanna Marshall, Rhydian Greenhall and Osian Francis are all contenders in the poetry competition after working together on a joint entry entitled 'Don't hide, show your pride'.

They'll all discover if they are winners or runners-up on Wednesday, May 6 at the Marriott Hotel, where they'll also meet some of the nation's brightest sporting stars.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr headteacher Ann Fox said: "We are extremely proud that our pupils have made it through to the finals of this competition and look forward to the awards ceremony. Last year, another of our pupils was a finalist in

the t-shirt design competition, and we feel that this is an excellent initiative which encourages us all to tackle racism and promote diversity."

This is the ninth year that Show Racism the Red Card has held their creative arts competition, and the awards event will be hosted by TV presenters Alex Winters and Lisa Rogers.

You can find out more about Show Racism the Red Card at www.srrc.org

NEWS FROM THE COITY WI

AT the well-attended April meeting of Coity WI, president Lyn Griffiths reported on the many activities members now enjoy.

Among them, the walking group and the craft group are particularly successful. The walking group have taken advantage of the good weather and have enjoyed walks in Aberavon, Castle-upon-Alun and Porthcawl. The

Bridgend-based film company is expanding

A WELSH film and television company is making a name for itself in blockbuster Hollywood productions after securing funding for new equipment, enabling it to take on new staff and open a new base at Pinewood Studios Wales.

Bridgend-headquartered Andy Dixon Facilities successfully applied for a Welsh Government SME Capital Grant worth £25,000, which went towards purchasing just over £400,000 worth of new equipment, including new artist trailers for location filming, with support from Business Wales.

Since securing the funding the company, which provides production trailers and equipment to the television and film industry, has taken on 10 new members of staff. It



Andy Dixon's company has taken on staff recently.

started in 2001, this year starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Keira Knightley.

To find out how Business Wales can help develop your business, call 03000 6 03000, or visit www.business.wales.gov.uk or www.busnes.cymru.gov.uk for further information.

Two choirs concert recalls the link with Paul Robeson

ON Friday, May 22 Bridgend Male Choir will join with Rutgers University Glee Club of New Brunswick, New Jersey, at St Mary's Catholic Church, Bridgend in a joint concert.

One of the USA's most successful choirs, all 76 choristers are aged under 25 years and will be bringing a wealth of musical experience. Possibly Rutgers' most famous former student was singer and actor Paul Robeson, who had an international career in singing, theatre and films and a very special relationship with this area.

Some of this is recollected by Bridgend chorister Roger Price: "In 1957, the south Wales area of the National Union of

Mineworkers extended an invitation to their great friend, Paul Robeson, to attend the South Wales Miners' Eisteddfod held at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion.

"He couldn't come. The American government wouldn't let him leave the country because Robeson had upset too many people with his outspoken views and he was a victim of McCarthyism."

"But the NUM weren't about to give up: they established an audio link with New York from Porthcawl via the transatlantic telephone. Not as easy to do in those days as it is now."

"So Robeson was able to speak and sing to his admirers waiting there to hear him, among them the Treorchy Male Choir, conductor John Haydn Davies. Will Paynter, then president of the south Wales area of the NUM, directed the proceedings and introduced the choir."

"Paul Robeson's association with south Wales miners stretched back to the late 1920s when he met a group singing on a hunger march in London. In 1938 at Mountain Ash, he spoke and sang at a great rally held in memory of Welshmen who had been killed in action with the International Brigade in Spain."

"It was no surprise that Robeson should enjoy such a warm affinity with the south Wales miners. They

shared a common philosophy and a vision of a fairer, more peaceful world.

"On the outbreak of war in 1939, following the filming of *The Proud Valley*, he returned to America to be showered with honours. Hamilton College of Clinton conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters with these words: 'In honouring you today we do not express our enthusiasm for your histrionic or musical achievements alone; we honour you chiefly as a man, a man of tremendous stature who, above all else, travels across the world as an exemplar of the humanity and greatness of our democratic heritage.'

"How sad that a decade later, in the climate of the McCarthy witch-hunt, all honours, both meritorious and honorary, should be stripped from him."

"Millions of people throughout the world have long since placed Paul Robeson in a proper world focus. His voice, his art, his humanity are known, admired, respected, appreciated and loved by millions in many countries on every continent."

See and hear two accomplished choirs for just £5 at St Mary's. For ticket enquiries, contact BMC secretary Gareth Reese, (07773 170373), or any chorister.

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Enjoy a good read – from Elaine's birdhouse library

A LOCAL librarian is leading a 'novel' initiative to promote the joy of reading by making books available from a mini library outside her home.

Anyone walking past Elaine Winstanley's house in North Comely at the junction between Angel Way and Mawdlam Way can borrow a book from the 'birdhouse' library that has been installed in her garden.

It's one of only 12 book birdhouses that have been set up across the UK by Picador Books and The Reading Agency, and is also linked to the release of the new David Whitehouse novel mobile library.

Elaine's birdhouse library is the only one in Wales and offers a selection of 12 books which will be regularly replenished and rotated. Passers-by are encouraged to choose a book, read it, and return it for someone else to enjoy. Readers are also asked to post book reviews on twitter using the hashtag #PicadorLittleLibraries.

Elaine, who is the branch manager at Porthcawl Library, said: "I'm really excited to be



Elaine Winstanley with the birdhouse library.

part of this inspiring initiative and it has been great to see people borrowing, returning and donating books.

"Initially, the birdhouse library will be available for six months, but I'm hoping it will continue to flourish with the support of the community."

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for wellbeing, said:

"Bridgend Library and Information Service is passionate about the joy of reading and this fantastic initiative offers another way for local residents to access books."

"A pop-up library scheme is also being

introduced across the county borough in suitable community locations such as Coast café in Porthcawl and Bauhaus in Bridgend, where the public can find a selection of books to delve into.

"Library members also have access to a wealth of free online resources such as e-magazines, e-books, audiobooks and research facilities that they can enjoy either from their own home or on the go."

Coun Morgan added: "For residents who are unable to visit their local library, the service also offers a mobile library and a housebound provision via the Booklink van which delivers books, DVDs and audiobooks direct to your door."

To find out more about local libraries, please call 01656 754800, email blis@bridgend.gov.uk or visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries.

Musical pupils are taking the plaudits at Porthcawl



The school's string group.



The Margam finalists – Thomas Phillips is on right.



Percussionists Harriet Maine, Huw Griffiths and Imogen Kent.



Alex Hunt, Alistair Noden and Imogen Kent.

Soroptimist Club helps family groups



WHEN Bridgend Soroptimist Club met on April 23 for its AGM, members presented a cheque for £1,200 to Bridgend Homestart.

The donation was raised throughout the year by way of various fundraising events, including a tombola stand at the Llantwit and Cowbridge Lions' summer fayre in June.

Expressing her delight at receiving the cheque, Homestart's Lesley Evatt said the money would be allocated to two new projects they are currently working with.

Money Matters works

with vulnerable families who do not have the necessary financial skills and tools to manage money safely.

The donation from Bridgend Soroptimists will be used to provide resources in the project workshops.

Ready, Steady, Go will help parents who lack confidence or feel alienated from education to engage with their children's learning via a volunteer-led, individualised programme of support.

The Soroptimists' donation will be used to buy books and resources for the families to use at home.

EB

PACT meetings

SARN/BRYNCOCH PACT on Tuesday, May 5 at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.

LLANGEINOR PACT public meeting on Wednesday, May 6 at the Richard Price Centre at 5.30pm.

BRYNCETHIN PACT public meeting on Wednesday, May 6 at Nazareth Chapel at 6pm.

YNYSAWDRE PACT public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13 at Ynysawdre Community Hall at 6pm.

NANTYMOEL/OG MORE VALE PACT public meeting on Wednesday, May 13 at Horeb Chapel at 7pm.

BLAENGARW/PONTYCYMER PACT public meeting on Friday, May 15 at the Garw Boys and Girls Club, Victoria Street, Pontycymer at 6.30pm.

BLACKMILL PACT public meeting on Tuesday, May 19 at Blackmill Community Centre at 6pm.

MUSIC is flourishing at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, where five pupils were recent finalists in the annual Margam Foundation music competition.

They were Imogen Kent, Lauren Pugh, Peter Sloggett, Harriet Maine and Thomas Phillips. All performed very professionally and exhibited a great spirit of camaraderie.

After great deliberation, the head boy at PCS, Thomas Phillips, was awarded first prize.

Two year-13 pupils, Imogen Kent and Harriet Maine, have good reason to celebrate. Together with their teacher, Mr Huw Griffiths, they have passed their grade 8 percussion exam with distinction.

The National Youth Orchestra of Wales holds

auditions throughout the country for players of grade 8 ability and above. A place in the orchestra is difficult to secure, but three pupils have succeeded in doing just that.

Alistair Noden, Imogen Kent and Alexandra Hunt will all be attending a 10-day course in the University of Wales at Lampeter prior to a concert tour in August.

The String Group will be taking part in the Flower Festival at All Saints' Church on Saturday, June 20, and will also be in the Millennium Centre, performing on the Glanfá stage on Sunday, July 12.

There are 17 members in the group, of whom seven are grade 8 standard and above.

This is an exceptional year for music at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS...

Tyn-y-Coed Surgery, Sarn FRIENDS of the surgery are raising funds for an ambulatory blood pressure monitor.

The first fundraising event will be a ladies' evening on Wednesday, May 13, 7pm - 9.30pm at Sarn Life Long Learning Centre.

Patients and non-patients will be able to enjoy a relaxing evening with mini-treatments including reflexology, manicures, pedicures, aloe vera facials and lifestyle advice from a range of healthcare professionals. Entry £2, to include a glass of wine or soft drink, and each mini-treatment will cost £2.

Bridgend Castle Players

THIS enterprising group is providing a series of one act plays, throughout the area and its latest production is *An Evening of Entertainment*. This is a performance of three different one act plays, as follows.

A Dog's Life by Pam Valentine, directed by Mark Davies. A story about an animal shelter, in which the life of an old dog, Ben, is threatened.

Care-free! written by Ieuan Briers and directed by Kiera Phillips. Five teenagers are spending a weekend house-sitting, and what goes wrong.

One Careful Owner, by H Connolly, directed by Martin Smidman. A romantic story involving a series of

mishaps.

An Evening of Entertainment will be performed on:

- Friday, May 8 at Aberkenfig Welfare Hall, doors open 7pm, curtain up 7.30pm.

- Saturday, May 9 at Ogmore Vale Non-Political Club (this performance will be in conjunction with The Nantymoel Community Association), doors open 7pm, curtain up 7.30pm.

- Sunday, May 10 at Coytrahen Community Centre, doors open 6.30pm, curtain up 7pm.

Tickets cost £6 each and will be available beforehand through the Bridgend Castle Players' website or at door of each performance.

Choir loses stalwart member

THE members of Cór Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley Ladies' Choir) were shocked to hear of the death of one of the choir's founder members, Rita Catt. She had been one of the foremost members at the choir's inception 26 years ago.

Rita was also a faithful member of the Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Patrick's, Maesteg. In recognition of her involvement with both organisations, the members have decided to honour Rita's life by holding a memorial concert at the church, Monica Street, Maesteg.

The concert will be on Friday, May 22 at 7pm, and will have two of Maesteg's most talented singers as

soloists, Rhydian Jenkins and Aled Williams; both past winners of the Bridgend young singer of the year competition.

Tickets (£5) are obtainable from choristers or members of the church, and the money raised will be used to benefit the church's restoration fund.

Tynyrheol Primary School

KERRY Jones the headteacher would like to congratulate the following pupils who attained 100 per cent in attendance last term:

Darcey Bater, Tygan Crocker, Lloyd Grabham, Megan Grabham, Harry Hopwood, Rhydian John, Gethin Lewis, Nia Lewis, Max Loosmore, Millie Loosmore, Jamie McCann, Levi McCormick, Lilly McCormick, Madison Parry, Noah Pook, Brandon Riddiford, Garyn Riddiford, Declan Rose, Ellie Street, Zach Thomas, Sam Whitefield and Rhosyn Wong.

They were each presented with a certificate, attendance pencil and an ice skating voucher from Planet Ice in Cardiff.

Kerry would also like to congratulate the following pupils who completed Miss Jones' Easter Reading Challenge. They were Zoe Baird, Lewis Barnes, Darcey Bater, McKenzie Dowling, Lloyd Grabham, Megan Grabham, Alex Hawkins, Rhydian John, Gethin Lewis, Max

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Loosmore, Millie Loosmore, Levi McCormick, Logan McCormick, Lewis Matthews, Shannon Matthews, Madison Parry, Paige Penny, Erin Quigley, Dylan Sage, Thomas Sage, Zack Steele, Jak Lewis, Ellie Street, Eloise Whitefield, Sam Whitefield and Rhosyn Wong.

Each received a certificate and a chocolate bunny as a thank you for their continued efforts. They all read for more than 12 days of the recent Easter holidays.

She would like to thank everyone who donated bags of clothes this week in the school's Rags2Riches collection; it raised a fantastic £102.06 for the school. There will be another collection later in the year.

At the recent Bridgend cross-country running competition, Kerry was pleased that the following pupils attained the following results. In the year-3/4 girls, Zoe Baird came 73rd; year-3/4 boys, Gethin Lewis came 18th; year-5/6 boys, Tyler Williams came 23rd.

The teaching staff and children decide on a

value which applies throughout that week, and certificates are presented to the pupil in each class who has best displayed this value throughout the week.

'Sportsmanship' was the value for this week and certificates have been presented to the pupil who has best displayed this value consistently throughout the week. They were Class 1 - Lilly McCormick, for following rules and instructions in PE.

Class 2 - Logan McCormick, for being a good team member and helping his team mates improve their game.

Class 3 - Rieley Fletcher, for always being a good team player, being encouraging to others and accepting decisions.

Bryncethin WI PRESIDENT Debi Thomas opened the recent meeting on April 16 and welcomed the members, who voted on the resolution 'Failing to Care'.

There were 18 votes for and none against. Debi Thomas then informed members that Lesley Russell and Elaine Christian have been lucky enough to be selected to attend the Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace in June. The ladies will enjoy shopping for this event!

Secretary Jen Davies then read the minutes from the previous month's meeting and they were agreed by the members. Birthday wishes and cards were presented to three ladies: Linda Barrett, Trisha Longmire and Elaine Christian.

Debi Thomas then introduced the speaker

for the evening, Wendy Derrick, who gave a talk on El Shaddai, a charity which supports children in Goa, part of the Indian sub-continent. The presentation and talk by Wendy was very informative and inspiring, although a sad subject. El Shaddai focuses on creating a positive outcome for these unfortunate children - more information is available on the website www.childrescue.net.

Debi thanked Wendy for donating her time to Bryncethin WI and a monetary gift was donated to the cause.

After a short tea break, Jen Davies informed members of all Bryncethin WI updates from the Glamorgan Federation newsletter on various forthcoming events.

Bryncethin WI meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6.45pm to 9pm at Bryncethin Memorial Hall, on the A4061, opposite the primary school. The next meeting (on May 21) will be at the earlier time of 6.30pm - 7pm for the official meeting. From 7pm to 9pm Bryncethin WI will be holding an open evening for members of the public with crafts, cakes and a table top sale.

For further information, email: Bryncethin.wi@gmail.com or telephone the secretary Jen on 07938 746890.

Tondu primary school

MRS Susan Pilcher would like to invite carers and friends of pupils in Mrs

Richards' and Mrs Goldsworthy's class Ewenni to attend the class assembly tomorrow (May 1) at 10.20am.

They are welcome to a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee from 10am, and to take part in a 'linger and learn session' with their child for half an hour after the assembly.

Susan would like to congratulate the followings who achieved full marks with their homework last term.

Mrs Jones'/Mrs Goldsworthy's class Cynffig: Leon Elliott, Cariad Evans, Maddie Flower, Cerys Griffiths, Aidan Hall, Indiana Ludlow-Huntley, Seth Jenkins, Grace Liu, Amber Lloyd, Loveday Lock, Lily Parfitt, Isaac Rardon, Jack Rose, Harley Seren Terry, Isabelle Thomas, Simon Wang, Zachary Ward, Finley Williams.

Mrs Richards'/Mrs Goldsworthy's class Ewenni: Ffion Barry, Evan Dare, George Jarman-Davies, Llewys Evans, Abigail Jones, Logan Kinsman, Jensen Matthews, Aidan Radford.

Mrs Pugh's class Garw: Dewi Castling, Jake Dyke, Cerys Fisher, Lewis Flanagan, Iestyn Galtry, Rhydian Galtry, Owain Hopkins, Kimberley Johns, Sion Lane, Dylan Lewis, Mollie Lloyd, Erin Marshall, Imogen Merrett, Jayden Newell, Madison Phillips, Megan Simpson, Matthew Smith, Anwen Thomas, Ben Thomas, Corey Thomas, Mason Walsley.

Mr Thomas's class Llynfi: Carwyn Barry, Noah Barry, Leila Carlyon, Farai Chikadaya, Ruben Davies, Levi Harry, Lara Morris, Elis O'Connor, Joshua Powell, Sam Thomas, Annabel Ward, Bobby Zziwa.

Miss Davies' class Ogwr: Cameron Baker, Angel Carey, Tiffany Chen, Joshua Collier,

Lillie-Eve Cronin, Isabelle Evans, Jessica Evans, Maisie Fahey, Sophie Featham, Olivia Herbert, Evan Humphries, Ronnie Jones, Ieuan Lane, Tyler Phillips, Maddie Rose, Fabian Tapner, Emily Tuck, Jacob Waterman, Callum Withey, Jamie Baker, Iona-Grace Panter.

Miss Hopkins's class Rhondaf: Sophie Barrett, Lewis Barrett, Josie Chan, Seren Dare, Wil Davies, Kacey Floyd, A Jay Hopson, Tomos Hutchinson, Gracie Jones, Maddie Jones, Holly Lewis, Tegan Rampley, Tia Richards, Sophie Tipper, Luke Thomas, Amelia Webb, Olivia Webb, Alisha Williams, Daniel Williams, Tamzin Williams.

Miss Jones' class Taf: Ethan Baker, Rhys Baker, Libby Barrett, Jerry Chan, Morganne Chauvel, Leiana Mai Darks, Ellie Mai Davies, Lauren Davies, Ben Fisher, Dylan Griffiths, Keira Hill, Benji Lock, Keiran O'Connor, Tia Popham, Molly Price, Eva Salo, Cariad Westlake, Iestyn Williamson.

Mr Lewis' class Usk: Tegan Chambers, Thomas Chauvel, Kian Edwards, Mya-Paige Fahey, Tia Featham, Sasha Flower, Liam Lloyd, Brooke Ockwell, Tia Ockwell, Joseph Williams.

Coytrahen Community Centre

THE committee which keeps the centre open and well maintained, has formed an entertainments sub-committee.

On Friday, May 15 it is organising a horse racing event at the centre, to raise funds to help pay the running costs of the centre. The doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Race cards listing the horses will be available at the door. For more information contact

Women's Aid group announces merger

BRIDGEND Women's Aid Group (BWA) has announced a merger with Calan DVS, the leading domestic violence and abuse charity, from May 2015.

The merger has come about through the commitment of groups such as BWA and Calan DVS to develop and deliver sustainable, high quality, specialist support services and interventions for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and abuse.

Both organisations say they believe that this goal can be best achieved through an integrated approach.

In addition to the merger, Calan DVS has also been awarded the contract to develop and deliver an Integrated Domestic Abuse Service by Bridgend County Borough Council, starting May 2015, for a period of three years.

Calan DVS CEO, Rhian Bowen-Davies, commented: "The merger with BWA and the local authority contract provides us with an exciting opportunity to work in partnership with complementary organisations and agencies in the Bridgend area. Our aim is to further develop existing and new services to improve outcomes for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and abuse."

'We are feeling really positive' Niamh's life-changing operation could help her walk on her own

by GEM REPORTER

A young Barry girl has had a successful life-changing operation that should enable her to walk.

Niamh Hurn (9) who attends Palmerston Primary School, underwent the £30,000 operation in Bristol last last week.

She has had a serious spinal problem which means she has been unable to walk without help. Niamh underwent selective dorsal rhizotomy surgery.

Talking to THE GEM from Bristol Children's Hospital her mum Michelle said: "Niamh is doing really well. She is standing and her legs are flexible - it means her feet are lovely and warm, they used to be like blocks of ice."

"It is early days, but we are feeling really positive. She has responded very well."

Michelle said the family was now very optimistic that Niamh would one day walk unaided.

Niamh will stay in Bristol for another two weeks and then return to Barry.

It was a race against time for Niamh because the medical advice was that the operation should be carried out before she was 10 years old - and Niamh is nine already.

Alun Cairns, who campaigned for Niamh to have the operation, said: "I was absolutely delighted to hear the news of the successful operation from the Hurn family on Monday."

"I am pleased to have been able to make a difference to Niamh and those around her. The life



Niamh with mum Michelle.

changing operation has the potential to transform the life prospects of a delightful young girl, and I will continue to offer my support during her rehabilitation."

Niamh will still need therapy and if anyone would like to help towards the ongoing costs, they should go to: <http://www.justgiving.com/helpniamhachieve/>.

'Chamber Winds' concert hosted at Carnegie House

ON Thursday, May 7 at 3pm, Carnegie House, Bridgend, invites you to the second instalment of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama concert series.

What better way to relax than to the sounds of Mozart and Bach played by the experts?

With tea, coffee and cakes on sale, it is an afternoon tea time treat.

To book tickets, see <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/carnegiehouse/> or contact the Carnegie House Team on 01656 815757 (between 9am-1pm) or email leanne.edwards1@bridgend.gov.uk.

TAX HELP IN BRIDGEND

TAX HELP is holding an advice surgery at the CAB offices, Bridgend, on Friday, May 8. To book an appointment, telephone 0845 6013321.

A further surgery will also be held at Pencoed Library on Tuesday, May 12. Call 0845 6013321.

Protests at college after Welsh Government cuts

by PHILIP IRWIN

STUDENTS and staff at Bridgend College protested last week against "huge cuts" imposed by the Welsh Government.

The cuts cover the next financial year, and so the college is reviewing how this will affect the curriculum.

The Welsh Government recently confirmed a 50 per cent reduction in funding for part time courses for all colleges across the further education sector. For Bridgend, it means a shortfall of £3 million.

Simon Pirotte, principal and chief executive officer at the college, said "Despite these considerable financial challenges, we are determined that Bridgend College will continue to deliver an excellent educational experience."

"This is a massive cut in our funding and is particularly challenging as we will need to address this issue by September 2015."

"The cuts will predominantly affect part-time courses such as adult returners looking to upskill, as well as young people trying to better themselves by studying a part-time course while holding down a job".

"This news is devastating, as last year was the most successful in the college's history, with student achievement at an all-time high."

"It is inevitable that the scale of these cuts will result in job losses."

We will need to focus on our core business of educating full time 16-19 year olds, as well as other priority areas such as basic skills, apprenticeships and higher education."

"Staff are understandably shocked and upset by these cuts. We have a good relationship with all the recognised unions and we will be working closely with them to try and avoid compulsory redundancies."

"I understand the challenges facing the Welsh Government but I have a real concern that the cuts to our part-time provision will seriously undermine the economic recovery and the essential upskilling of the local and national workforce."

"Bridgend also has some of the most deprived wards in Wales and it is an unfortunate consequence that the reductions in funding will also lead to the decline of adult learning, affecting some of our most vulnerable communities."

A Welsh Government spokesperson said: "The UK Government has cut the Welsh Government's budget by £1.4bn in real terms since 2010. We have been clear about the financial challenges this has presented and the difficult decisions we've had to make."

"All Further Education institutions in Wales are autonomous bodies and it is up to them how they prioritise their provision in line with Welsh Government priorities."



"We have been open with FE colleges in our discussions with them. It is now more important than ever that we focus not just on the resources that are available but how we use them and what we achieve".

Submarine found in the Med!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

No definite explanation has ever been agreed upon for HMS Urge's sinking, and it was officially reported missing in the Mediterranean Sea on April 29, 1942.

However, it now looks as if the mystery of HMS Urge's last resting place has been solved by a historian working in Libya.

On April 16, Jean-Pierre Misson submitted a statement of identification for HMS Urge, which he found on sonar recordings taken at Marsa el Hilal, Libya.

The submarine is lying at a depth of around 150ft.

That research has now sent to Bridgend, and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) officers see it as a valuable addition to the Local and Family History Centre at Ty'r Ardd, Bridgend.

A commemorative plaque for HMS Urge is already in the centre, together with information regarding the submarine up to its disappearance. The new research will be on public display soon.

A BCBC spokeswoman looked back at the short life of HMS Urge. She said: "In 1941 there was a national 'warship week' which raised



The submarine at sea during World War Two.

money to meet the costs of providing military machinery and vehicles for the war.

"Nationally, £955m was raised, of which Bridgend contributed around £300,000 – over £12m in today's prices – and the town adopted HMS Urge, along with two other warships."

"HMS Urge's remarkable history included playing a key role in winning the battle for North Africa during World War Two. The vessel aided the Malta Squadron, known as the fighting 10th, to cut off supplies to Rommel's Afrika Corps".

In 2011, to mark the 69th anniversary of the submarine's disappearance, a plaque honouring HMS Urge and its 29-strong crew and 10 passengers was rededicated to the people of Bridgend.

The commemorative service was organised by the Submariners Association and hosted by BCBC at the Ty'r

Ardd premises of Bridgend Register Office.

The Leader of BCBC, Coun Mel Nott OBE, said: "This is a wonderful occasion for Bridgend county borough to celebrate the exceptional efforts of townsfolk during World War Two."

"To be able to conclude the story of the HMS Urge is a remarkable fulfilment of a piece of the town's history."

"This latest impressive research, which includes sonar readings and photographs of the submarine, is just a slice of the information and resources available at the Local and Family History Centre and I would urge local residents and visitors to pay a visit."

To find out more about the centre, visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries, email localandfamilyhistory@bridgend.gov.uk or telephone 01656 754810.



The memorial plaque for HMS Urge.

'Wedding cyclists' are out on the road to raise cash for charity

A GROUP of friends from the Cowbridge area are now on their way to London, cycling to the wedding of Luke England and Harriet Clarke – and raising money for Velindre Hospital at the same time, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

The team set off yesterday morning (Wednesday) and a surprise was in store for the group, when Welsh rugby captain Sam Warburton came along to the Bear Hotel to wish them well.

As we reported in last week's GEM, the idea of cycling to his wedding came to Luke and his family at a recent Velindre fundraiser.

Luke's mother, Marianne England, explained: "We got chatting (after a lot of alcohol had been consumed!) and decided how fantastic it would be to be able to cycle to London for his wedding, all in aid of Velindre."

"It's a cause that's very close to our hearts

so any opportunity to raise money for the charity is always taken up by our close friends."

"So, the groom, family and friends will be cycling nearly 200 miles from Cowbridge to London!"

Luke, together with his father Nigel England, Julian Hitchcock, Freddie Hitchcock, James Mordecai, Oliver Ladbroke-Davies, Martyn England, Fraser Clarke and Josh Clarke, set off at just before 9am after a hearty breakfast at the Bear.

They aim to arrive the day before the wedding, which takes place on Saturday, May 2, at

WRITERS' CIRCLE

Bridgend Writers' Circle have changed their venue and now meet at Carnegie House (Bridgend's old library) on the first Thursday of the month, at 7.15pm.

The next event is on May 7, with storyteller Owen Staddon. Entry is free of charge.

VE DAY AT MUSEUM

Porthcawl Museum is holding a VE Day coffee morning at the Y Centre in John Street on Friday, May 8 at 10.30am.

Entry is £1.50 at the door and there will be a warm welcome, together with homemade wartime cakes, raffle, tombola, quiz and much more.

Fulham Palace. Their route takes in: Day 1, Cowbridge – Bath; day 2, Bath – Windsor; day 3, Windsor – Fulham.

The head of fundraising at Velindre, Andrew Morris said: "We are incredibly grateful to Luke, Harriet and his fellow riders for this amazing effort – over £18,000 has already been raised for Velindre and we're really pleased that patron Sam Warburton came along to see them off."

"We hope lots of people will support them a t

<https://www.justgiving.com/m/Luke-England1>

**Read your GEM online
- visit bridgend-today.co.uk
and follow the link**

Friendly faces in Parkinson's Awareness week



Members of the Neath Port Talbot Parkinson's UK support group at their information stall at Neath Port Talbot Hospital.

PATIENTS and their families, friends and supporters across ABMU have been marking Parkinson's Awareness Week.

Specialist nurse Greta Jones, said: "The theme of this year's awareness week is Up Your Friendly and aims at encouraging everyone to be helpful and friendly to people with Parkinson's, or with any other health need."

An eye-catching stall in Neath Port Talbot Hospital manned by members of the community support group not

only provided information, but also raised £210 in donations by selling cakes.

Future fundraising events include a coffee morning organised by the Bridgend branch on May 1 from 10am to 12.30pm at the Heronston Hotel in Bridgend.

Louise Ebenezer, Parkinson's nurse based at Princess of Wales Hospital, said the awareness week played an important role in not only raising money but helping to focus attention on the condition.

Explore The GEM online
barry-today.co.uk
cowbridge-today.co.uk
llantwit-major-today.co.uk
porthcawl-today.co.uk
bridgend-today.co.uk

PUPILS THRILLED AT 'HIPPO' BOOK LAUNCH



At the book launch were (from rear left): Sian Dixon; Steve Smallman, author; Julie Thomas, headteacher of Garth Primary; Sophie Rees (9) from Ysgol Cynwyd Sant, Maesteg (hippo); Nia Jenkins (9) from Ysgol Cynwyd Sant (centipede); Abigail Edwards (8) from Cwmfelin Primary, Maesteg (centipede); Shaumiya Sasiruban (10) from Cwmfelin Primary (centipede); Finty Kehoe (8) from St Clare's School, Porthcawl (centipede); Soraya Williams (9) from St John's College, St Mellons, Cardiff (warthog); Maisie Dixon (7) from Cwmfelin Primary (monkey); Caitlin George (9) from Caerau Primary, Maesteg (mouse); Olivia Dawkins (8) from Cwmfelin Primary (bird); Ellie Thomas (7) from Cwmfelin Primary (crocodile).

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info@bridgend-hearing.co.uk
www.bridgend-hearing.co.uk



THE award-winning author Steve Smallman visited Garth Primary in Maesteg on Friday, April 24 to launch his latest picture book, Hippobottymus.

His reading of the book had pupils laughing out loud, in an event focused on how much fun books, words and reading can be.

There was also a surprise performance from students at the Sian Dixon School of Dance in Maesteg with music by Mark Collins, deputy musical director of West-End hit *Billy Elliot*, choreographed by Sian Dixon.

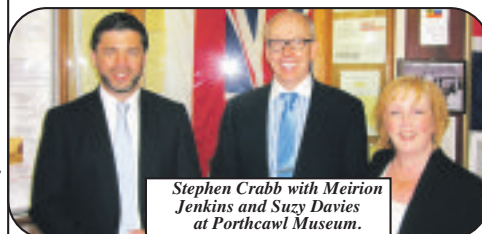
Their dance, described by Garth pupil Jayden Healey, aged four, as "Very awesome!" can be seen online at www.littletigerpress.com.

As the author and illustrator of over 250 books, Steve told the pupils about how he developed his story ideas, and also gave a masterclass on illustration. Pupils went away buzzing with ideas for pictures they could draw and stories they could write and share with Steve, with publisher Little Tiger Press, and with each other.

The headteacher of Garth Primary, Julie Thomas, is passionate about raising the education standards and aspirations of all the children at the school. She said: "It was an inspirational day and an amazing opportunity for our pupils to meet and listen to a 'real-life', successful author. Seeing the book come alive through music and dance made the day one we at Garth will never forget."

Hippobottymus, by Steve Smallman, illustrated by Ada Grey, is published by Little Tiger Press; RRP £6.99 www.littletigerpress.com.

Welsh Secretary visits Porthcawl



Stephen Crabb with Meirion Jenkins and Suzy Davies at Porthcawl Museum.

STRONG support for the important work carried out by volunteers who run Porthcawl Museum has come from Welsh Secretary Stephen Crabb.

Mr Crabb was in Porthcawl, accompanied by Conservative candidate Meirion Jenkins and Regional AM Suzy Davies. They called into a number of shops in John Street and also paid a visit to the museum.

Here, Mr Crabb was shown the First World War exhibition and said that he felt it was really important for museums like this one to explain the role played by people from their own area in major events like the two world wars.

He said that local history must be given greater emphasis because it was relevant to the lives and families of young people.

Meirion Jenkins said that Mr Crabb was told about the current problems facing the museum

society with regards to the future of the old police station where it is located and expressed the hope that it would be able to continue into the future.

He also met Coun Mike Clarke of the Porthcawl Maritime Centre who explained their Harbourside Project to him.

Suzy Davies said: "Stephen Crabb was given a flavour of the innovative thinking currently under way in Porthcawl in relation to this project, which has been developed entirely within the community."

"He also enjoyed speaking to local traders who were able to give him an insight into the problems being encountered by them in relation to things like business rates and parking charges."

"He is a strong supporter of the need to back locally-owned businesses in order to keep our high streets as diverse as possible."

Porthcawl residents' group supports three local causes



ABOVE: Becky Price and Susan Barnes.



Gwyneth Poacher



Pat Farrow.

RESIDENTS at RMBI Albert Edward in Porthcawl have been donating to the church fund for many years and supported numerous causes.

This year, three very deserving local charities have benefited and church warden Susan Barnes proudly presented cheques to their representatives.

The first of these was The Sandville Self Help Centre. A cheque of £250 was presented to Sister Gwyneth Poacher.

She explained to the residents the numerous ways in which they help the community from respite stays, to those in need of help, to providing transport to

and from Velindre, Reiki, massages and acupuncture.

This money will go towards helping the Sandville with its motto of never turning anyone away. On the morning when Gwyneth attended, 56 people were currently receiving help that morning in the Sandville.

Secondly, our residents had been made aware of a very wonderful young lady named Jessica Price.

Jess, who has been suffering from acute myeloid leukaemia, spent much of the last few months in hospital sedated while also battling neutropenic sepsis.

She is now on the road to recovery and would like to give back to all those charities who have helped her, and has

recently started her own charity, Jessica's Dream. Our residents gave a £250 donation to support Jessica with her charity.

Lastly, our third and final donation was made to Porthcawl Town Athletic Football Club.

Pat Farrow secretary of the club accepted the cheque.

She explained to our residents how the 60 volunteers that the club has enables children from age six right through to university enjoy playing football and building friendships.

This money will allow for 10 managers to attend first aid training to ensure the safety of children. PTAFC are holding a fun day on Sunday, June 14 at Rest Bay.

If you are able to volunteer or help at this event, contact the club directly.

A total of £750 was donated.

RT

Council's warning about rogue traders

BRIDGEND County Borough Council's Trading Standards service, and South Wales Police, are urging residents to say 'no' to anyone offering services on the doorstep, and to report any suspicious activity in the local community.

As the weather improves, this time of the year tends to be when rogue traders try to target residents.

A BCBC spokesman said: "In recent years, reports of individuals or groups of people offering services such as tree cutting, laying new driveways or repairing roofs have increased during the spring and summer months when many homeowners are thinking about making improvements to their properties."

"Successful prosecutions against doorstep criminals have highlighted that once these individuals start to work on a property they may report false defects to the customers, offering to carry out repairs at inflated prices. The work carried out is often substandard and unnecessary, and may cost even more to rectify."

The council's Trading Standards service is advising residents not to engage with cold callers on the doorstep.

Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Mel Nott, said: "Rogue traders do not tend to provide residents with enough information to prove who they are. Genuine home improvement

businesses rarely have the time to go door to door looking for work, so your suspicions should be raised if anyone calls at your home offering services.

"Rogue workers may seem plausible at first, but given the chance they may take advantage of you. The key is to turn cold callers away before they get a chance to mislead you, and to report an incident of this nature to Trading Standards or South Wales Police."

South Wales Police are urging residents to report any suspicious activity by calling the non-emergency 101 number.

Crime reduction advisor Deb Elward, said: "In some instances rogue traders are printing leaflets to make themselves look honest and reputable. These leaflets often look very authentic and are used to target victims."

"If someone posts a leaflet through your door, never hand over any money until you have a written quote and have also checked that the tradesperson is from the company they say they are from."

"We appreciate that it can often be difficult to identify a genuine trader, so please don't hesitate to contact Care & Repair on 01656 646755, Trading Standards or me at South Wales Police on 101."

If needed, contact Trading Standards via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06 (for a service in Welsh call 03454 04 0505); or email the address: tradingstandards@bridgend.gov.uk.

SHOUT AGM

PORHCRAWL SHOUT Forum, which is celebrating its 10th year, is holding its Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 1 at Trinity Church, Porthcawl at 2pm.

The guest speaker will be Coun Dr Charles Smith, BCBC officer responsible for regeneration.

Spokesman Clive Mort said: "Porthcawl SHOUT has over the years flown the flag for Porthcawl and is never slow to encourage action for the good of the town. Many people feel Porthcawl has been let down over the years, but now that the harbour area appears at last to be being redeveloped there is optimism for the future. Members will be able to hear from Dr Smith what the future holds but can also voice their concerns and aspirations."

For further information contact Clive Mort on 01656 783663. All are welcome.

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'Secure your home, even in good weather'

POLICE in Bridgend and the Vale have warned householders that the best deterrent to keep thieves from stealing property is a lock and key.

Officers are advising householders to make it hard for a burglar by locking all windows and doors and reporting any suspicious activity as soon as you become aware of it.

Crime reduction adviser Deb Elward said: "We generally like to relax during the warmer weather but criminals are never on holiday. It's great to let the fresh air into our

homes; however, during the good weather, there is a temptation to leave windows open at night but security should come first.

"Following a few common sense rules, like locking windows on the first and ground floor as well as any accessible windows near a flat roof, can make a big difference.

"By securing your home and property you can save yourself the distress and cost of being burgled. A simple light shining in the house on a timer switch keeps burglars away as they like to work in the dark."

Have coffee beans, will travel, for charity!



CAFFE NERO has organised a novel initiative in support of **Help for Heroes** – with the idea being to transport a single bag of coffee beans between Nero branches in the south west and Wales via different transport.

The leg from Cowbridge to Cardiff was completed by classic and sports cars – including a 1965 Mustang, a 1969 Jaguar e-type, and a 1956 MGA Le Mans racer.

Leigh Jones of Cowbridge-based WD Wins, who brought together the classic cars for the event, said: "I was delighted to help with this idea as I think the work that Help for Heroes undertakes is invaluable.

"Whenever these cars get taken out on the road they draw attention and admiring glances from people and this event was no different. We certainly captured people's imagination en-route. A brilliant idea and an all round success."

ABOVE: Leigh Jones of WD Wins (far left) with Caffè Nero staff and Alun Cairns.

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Students learn about rural careers

MORE than 150 pupils from schools throughout south Wales rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in at a Careers Wales' fair in Bridgend which helped them discover the opportunities available in land based careers in Wales.

The event, which was organised by Careers Wales in association with Bridgend College, took place at Pencoed Campus and saw year-9 pupils from 14 schools take part in workshops, activities and taster sessions with a diverse range of local businesses operating in areas such as countryside management, agriculture, horticulture, green keeping, equine studies and animal care.

The pupils attended the day-long event to find out for themselves about the exciting range of careers and new technological developments that are taking place within one of Wales' fastest growing industries.

Pupils had the chance to gain hands-on experience with

animals, from horses to reptiles, birds and smaller pets, helping them to learn about skills in zoo keeping, game keeping, forestry, stabling and equine dentistry.

Workshops and taster sessions from local employers such as Inscapes, Big Ideas Wales, Wildlife Trust, Out to Learn Willow, Liberty Horses, NFU, NFU Mutual, South

Wales Police (dog and mounted horse section) Bridgend County Borough Council parks, St Brides Trekking and Kenfig Nature Reserve, included insights into diverse aspects of land-based careers.

Hannah Stephens of Careers Wales, which organised the event, said: "This event was designed to give pupils a true feel of the different occupations

available to them within the land-based sector.

"We wanted to demonstrate the sorts of jobs they could consider and what the future job prospects are.

"We realise that the industry needs to attract young people and so the day gave them a chance to sample and research career ideas."

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Nostalgia, as Vicar Jon blesses circus Big Top!



Rev Jon Ormrod blessing the Big Top.

A VALE vicar had a nostalgic reminder of his past life when he blessed Circus Mondao's new big tent.

The priest-in-charge of the parishes of Sully

and Wenvoe with St Lythans is a former stage manager with the National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company.

"This was a first for me but I was delighted to oblige when the

circus rolled into Sully. I was told that it was a tradition within the circus for new tents/Big Tops to be blessed by the local vicar," said Rev Jon Ormrod.

"The blessing is carried out to ensure the safety and welfare of the performers, the animals and the audience.

"Using a branch from a yew tree at the church in Sully, I sprinkled holy water around the Big Top, the performers and the animals. It was a lovely occasion - everyone made me feel very welcome and it was great to do something a little bit different."

Circus ringmistress Petra Jackson said before performances started, as part of a long standing circus tradition, the new tent

needed to be blessed by the local vicar.

"We were very grateful to Rev Ormrod for carrying out the blessing, which was attended by all artists in full costume, all staff and animals.

"It was fantastic to find him, as with his theatrical background, it just seemed as though it was meant to be.

"Two of our performers were christened in the Big Top as children and many circus people also marry in the Big Top. The circus tent/Big Top is the centre piece of our lives and everything revolves around it. Without a tent, we are not a circus."

Circus Mondao has since moved on to Porthcawl from Sully.

S4C RIDE FOR HOSPICES



S4C staff celebrating their successful 190 mile marathon.

A GROUP of S4C employees cycled from Caernarfon to Cardiff recently - in aid of the Tŷ Gobaith and Tŷ Hafan children's hospices.

The 23 cyclists pedalled a total of 190 miles over three days to cross the finish line at the channel's headquarters in Llanishen, Cardiff on April 20.

Spokesman Chris Morris said: "There are many of us in S4C who enjoy cycling. We were a small group to start with, but as we talked to colleagues about our plans the numbers soon grew to over 20.

"We are grateful to everyone who has donated to the fund so far. Tŷ Gobaith and Tŷ Hafan do fantastic work supporting families and bringing happiness to children during the toughest times.

"We're glad to be able to contribute a little bit towards helping their work at both centres in the north and the south." The first day saw the cyclists take in 64 miles to their first overnight

stop in Corris, near Machynlleth. They then cycled 67 miles to the second stop near Brecon. And finally, on Monday, faced the final 59 miles to the finish line in Cardiff.

You can donate to both Tŷ Gobaith and Tŷ Hafan by visiting the dedicated Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/teams/s4c>.

LIFT group's planned meetings

THE LIFT self help group offers support and friendship to those affected by breast cancer.

We meet in Cowbridge once a fortnight on Wednesdays, usually between 10am and 1pm, but sometimes between 2pm and 4pm for speakers or special activities.

The next meeting is on May 6 at 10am for relaxation therapies and then on May 20 at 2pm we have a speaker on healthy eating and lifestyle.

If you know anyone who might benefit from this group, please ring Anne on 01446 772843 or Judith 01446 794176. New members are always welcome, please come and bring a friend.

JH

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'SLEEP OUT' HIGHLIGHTS ISSUE OF HOMELESSNESS

EMMAUS South Wales organised a formal dinner for local organisations across the voluntary, public and business sectors of Bridgend and south Wales recently.

The speaker was Terry Waite CBE, the president of Emmaus UK, and nearly 100 people attended the dinner, including Carwyn Jones AM, the First Minister of Wales.

This dinner took place at the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend and its purpose was to celebrate the progress of Emmaus South Wales in setting up Wales' first Emmaus Community in Bridgend. This is being funded through social enterprise, with charity shops now open in Cowbridge, Bridgend, Maesteg, Neath and Porthcawl.

These shops (with more planned) will make the Emmaus Community financially sustainable, as well as giving work opportunities for the homeless people (companions) who come into the community.

A spokeswoman said: "The dinner brought together people who have helped the Emmaus South Wales' journey so far. There is still further to travel, with the opening of the Emmaus community expected in late autumn 2015, with the first companions arriving soon after that. So it is an exciting time."

"Terry addressed the guests with a description of his personal experiences of both being a hostage and helping the families of those who had been hostages. He related this to the Emmaus ethos of helping people back onto their feet, when perhaps they



Emmaus president Terry Waite CBE at dinner
Photo by PAUL FEARS
PHOTOGRAPHY

despaired of ever standing again.

"His speech was both inspiring and entertaining. The guests left having thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to hear first-hand from one of the most respected men of his generation."

Later that evening, Terry Waite addressed the supporters and staff of Emmaus South Wales who were doing a sponsored Sleep Out in Bridgend town centre (near the Cenotaph). Some of the 'sleepers' had attended the dinner at the Heronston earlier that day!

Twenty stoic supporters and staff from the charity were treated to some time with Terry. Local people also enjoyed the opportunity to listen to him.

A nice twist to the evening was being joined on the Sleep Out by a former Emmaus companion, who had been destitute and homeless before joining the Emmaus community in Bristol. He got back onto his feet while he was in Emmaus Bristol and is now in his own accommodation in south Wales, holding down a good job.

He heard about the

sleep out and wanted to support what Emmaus South Wales was doing. He also wanted to thank Terry personally for his role in Emmaus and the difference it had made to his life.

This unexpected testimony was a very pleasant surprise to Terry, who takes his role as Emmaus president very seriously, and crowned what already had been an excellent day.

"It was a great privilege to have Terry Waite CBE, our Emmaus president, support both events so passionately," said Emmaus South Wales director Tom Clarke.

"On behalf of Emmaus South Wales, I would like to thank the staff at the Heronston, who made the dinner happen; the staff of BCBC, who made the sleep out happen, and, last but not least, the staff and supporters of Emmaus South Wales, who made both events happen."

Funds raised from the Sleep Out will go to the Wallich in Bridgend as an act of Emmaus solidarity in helping other charities who are also working to alleviate poverty.

Bristol Channel pilot cutters come to Barry

AT least five restored pilot cutters will be arriving in Barry on Friday, May 8, to take part in the annual Barry Yacht Club 'Cock of the Channel' race down towards Lundy Island.

The race, which was first established by the working Pilot Cutters goes back to around 1936 when the winner was presented with the Silver Tern Cup and a club burgee embroidered with a cockerel, a tradition still carried out to this day.

The race, which starts at 9.50am on Saturday, May 9, will take the boats on a 100-mile course past Ilfracombe and then across to Swansea, arriving back in Barry sometime on Sunday afternoon, to be

LOCAL AM PRAISES 'MANVAN'

WALES' first ManVan - a 38ft American-style motorhome converted to bring dedicated mobile cancer support to communities across Wales - is celebrating a year of supporting men and their loved ones who have been affected by cancer.

The van will be doing the rounds again this year and men and their families are being encouraged to head down when it visits their area.

Regional AM for South Wales Central, Andrew RT Davies, said: "The ManVan is an innovative way to get the message across and provide support to men and their families affected by prostate or testicular cancer."

If you or someone you love has been affected by cancer, call the Tenovus Cancer Care free support line on 0808 808 1010 or visit tenovuscancercare.org.uk.

Toshack and Keegan line up for Velindre

FAMED Liverpool strike duo John Toshack and Kevin Keegan will link up again in Cardiff in June - for a special charity evening.

It has been arranged by The Events Room to help raise funds for the Velindre Cancer Centre.

Mark Shepherd, a director of the company who has previously conquered Kilimanjaro to raise funds for Velindre, has also signed up for their next bike ride in September 2016, alongside Welsh rugby legend Martyn Williams.

The night will also celebrate an incredible 50 years in football for Tosh, who first played for Cardiff City in 1965 at the tender age of just 16. The one-off event will be held at The Millennium Stadium, Cardiff on Friday, June 26.

The legendary players were dubbed 'Batman and Robin', thanks to their almost telepathic understanding during their time together for Liverpool in the 1970s. Toshack reigned supreme in the air, while Keegan thrived on the knockdowns.

Wales' Toshack scored 96 goals during his time at Anfield,

winning an array of silverware before managing Swansea City, Real Madrid, the national team and other leading sides around the footballing world.

Keegan scored 100 goals for Liverpool, many set up by Toshack, before heading off to Hamburg. He also managed the England team and, memorably, Newcastle United.

The evening will commence at 7.30pm and will include a sumptuous three-course dinner, tales from football's golden era, live Q&A, raffle and auction. BBC Wales football correspondent Rob Phillips will host the evening.

Tables of 10 are available at £700+VAT. A quantity of individual covers on shared tables of 10 are also available at £70+VAT per person. There are also a limited number of Platinum tables available at £1,250+VAT.

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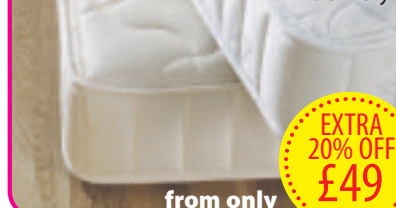


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THIS month, I intend to give some general news from in and around the Vale and therefore I am pleased to begin by confirming that the Vale Council is supporting business and tourism along the Vale's Heritage Coast, continuing with the Penarth Pier and Pavilion – in my opinion both potentially award-winning partnerships.

A great example is where the Vale Council has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award for planning excellence. The regeneration of Barry Island's eastern promenade has been named as a finalist for the Excellence in Planning and Design for the Public Realm Award at the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2015.

The awards, run by the Royal Town Planning Institute, will be held at the Pullman, London St Pancras, on July 6.

The regeneration work saw the renovation of the eastern shelter and promenade, new

gardens and easier access to the promenade and eastern beach, and new colourful lighting for the shelter, as well as the former changing rooms converted into new toilet facilities and a new water mist feature in the shape of ammonite fossils built below a covered events area.

The main attractions of the scheme, however, have been the popular traversing wall designed by artist Gordon Young, and the variety of colourful beach huts along the promenade, available for hire all year round.

The 80 finalists highlight exceptional examples of planning that have made an impact and brought considerable benefits. It will be a tremendous challenge picking individual category winners from such a high quality field. I am therefore hopeful we will have some good news on the night.

I am also pleased to note that there will be a Lottery boost for the Vale Heritage Coast. The Big Lottery has announced it will be awarding a grant to the Vale Council to boost the employment potential of the area.

Approximately £224,760 will be used to support the

expansion and creation of micro enterprises in the area. There will also be funding to replace the existing slipway at Dunraven Bay in Southerndown, along with storage units for on and off shore activities.

I am delighted that the Big Lottery has awarded this grant to support an area often regarded as a hidden gem by many. It is a testament to the work of our officers and the project will be led by the council's rural development team, Creative Rural Communities. The team will be continuing its aim of encouraging economic development by awarding funding to create sustainable economic growth and jobs.

I am sure this will give a well-deserved boost to tourism in the area and build upon our excellent rural development programme.

As you may know, the Vale has partnered the energy project known as Cyd Cymru, where people can sign up for cheaper energy through the scheme. As a result of the success of the scheme and the number of switchers, the Vale Council has been able to receive a share of the community fund that was also part

VIEW FROM THE VALE



by Coun
NEIL MOORE
Leader of the
Vale of
Glamorgan
Council

of the scheme.

The collective energy switching scheme, launched in 2013 by the council, saved customers an average of £185 per household in its first year. Since its launch, more than 5,000 people have registered with the scheme which uses collective buying power to negotiate a range of unique tariffs.

For every satisfied customer, money is paid into a community fund. The amount each council receives depends on the number of people living in that area who have made the switch.

Therefore, we have decided to give a donation to the Vale foodbanks, who will receive a donation of £2,370.53.

More information and details on how to register can be found at www.cydycymru-

accreditation through Street Games, a sports charity that supports a network of projects which provides sports and volunteering opportunities to young people in disadvantaged communities across the UK.

This project is mainly being funded via the Vale Sport (LAPA) funding provided by Sport Wales.

Five free multisport sessions are now taking place on a weekly basis in the identified areas within Barry, in local parks, multi-use games areas or indoor venues. In addition, a partnership has been formed with

the PCSOs and local volunteers to enhance an existing doorstep sport football project and there have been further developments to an existing bike club running in Gibbonsdown.

This project also impacts on developing the education and employability of local residents. The identification, training and retention of volunteers has been a key part of this project.

A large proportion of individuals accessing the doorstep sport volunteering opportunities, and subsequently training courses, have been classified as Not in

Employment, Education or Training (NEETs). Therefore, it is hoped there is a longer-term benefit for such individuals in engaging with the project, providing them with training and experience to increase their skills, confidence and opportunities to gain employment.

To date, 23 individuals have taken up training opportunities and there have been 12 who have regularly volunteered over a sustained period within the project, of which 50 per cent are classified as either at risk of becoming or as already classified as NEET.

A commemoration of Victory in Europe Day

ON Sunday, May 10 at 10.30am, the Royal British Legion in Barry will be hosting a service of commemoration marking the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe – VE Day.

Everyone is welcome to join us, and for this service we are happy for people who need it to bring along a fold-up garden chair to sit on.

Please only bring a chair, though, if it is required, as space will not allow for everyone to do so.

We are sure that many people in Barry and surrounding areas have memories of that day, inevitably those memories, while celebrating the end of the war in Europe, may be tinged with sadness for lost family members and

friends.

Please meet at the Barry Memorial Hall Cenotaph at 10.30am.

Should you wish to lay a wreath, telephone Roy on 07900 660657 to discuss your requirements.

Should you wish to take an active part in the service, either by involving your youth organisation, adult organisation or parading a Standard, please ring me on 07776 111385. Keep up to date with what we are doing by following us on Facebook, Royal British Legion Barry.

The Royal British Legion is determined to keep the Remembrance flame alive, and so is encouraging people of all ages to join us as we commemorate this day.

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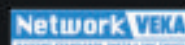
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Wheelchair-accessible ramp gives disabled riders a lift



Photographs by IAN DIXON

APRIL 22 marked the official opening of a £3,500 wheelchair-accessible ramp presented to the 'Vale of Glamorgan Riding for the Disabled' at the Grange, St Bride's Super Ely, by the Rotary Club of Barry.

It will enable disabled children to experience the joy of riding and was made on behalf of the club by Barry-based company Fabmec Ltd.

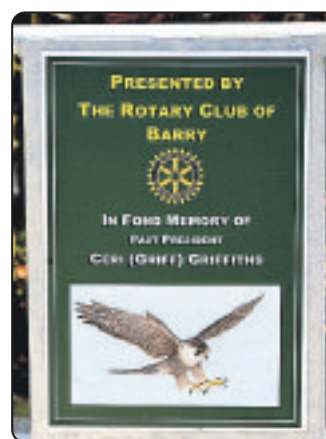
The Vale group which helps disabled children to achieve more, celebrated its 50th anniversary last year and relies on voluntary help and donations.

Organiser Clare Cory said the ramp, modelled after one designed for the Special Olympics, had made a

tremendous difference making it much easier for the students to get on the ponies, especially those using wheelchairs. They are now able to help 20 students.

The Rotary Club of Barry raised over £1,400 from a 'Pork in the Park' barbecue in August at the Welsh Hawking Centre, organised by past president Griff, who tragically died later in the year. The rest came from the Rotary Club's other fundraising events held during the year, such as the annual Fireworks Fiesta.

The Rotary Club of Barry meets weekly in the Glenbrook Inn on Thursdays 6pm for 6.30pm. If you would like further information, speak to club secretary Phil Hunt on 01446 720000, or look online at www.rribi.org.



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Out and About with The GEM

GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY

L L A N M A E S gardens, at Llanmaes near Llantwit Major, CF61 2XR, will be open to the public for charity on Sunday, May 3, from 1pm to 6pm.

Old Froglands is an historic farmhouse with streams and woodland areas linked by bridges. The vegetable plot is now productive. Plantings are varied with interesting foliage.

West Winds is a work in progress. It was a beautiful and much-loved garden that sadly became overgrown and is now being reclaimed.

Pathways weave through terraces with balustrades, wooded areas and lawns with views over the village and open fields. The

garden has a full range of aspects from deep shade to full sun, and is shared and enjoyed with a diverse collection of wildlife.

Church Cottage has a pretty cottage garden and has seen significant work over the past two years.

Brown Lion House is a newly-renovated garden around mature trees and shrubs with patios and pathways.

Gadlys Farm House is one acre of informal garden surrounding a 17th century farmhouse.

Various sitting areas to relax amongst mature trees, herbaceous borders, summerhouse water feature and courtyard with planters.

Mehefin is an enchanting garden with bursts of colour.

Combined admission £5, child free. Home-made teas at Old Froglands and Mehefin.

Trerhyngyll Gardens, Cowbridge, CF71 7TN: Trerhyngyll is a peaceful countryside hamlet of some 60 dwellings, nestling in the gently folding hills of the Vale. The three gardens are typical of the hamlet.

Open Monday, May 4, (2pm-6pm). Combined admission £5, child free. Home-made teas.

Leigh's call to support Ty Hafan



Tŷ HAFAN, the hospice for children in Wales, is asking primary schools in the Vale to take part in its 'Fancy Dress Friday' fundraiser on May 15 to help life-limited children and their families create memories they will cherish forever.

Wales rugby star Leigh Halfpenny, an ambassador for Tŷ Hafan, is supporting the campaign, which is taking place during Children's Hospice Week.

Leigh said: "Tŷ Hafan is an amazing charity that helps children and their families make the most of the time they have left together. Please be a hero this Children's Hospice Week and help Tŷ Hafan

care for more families across Wales."

The theme for this year's Children's Hospice Week is 'Making every Moment Count' which is why Tŷ Hafan is appealing to teachers and pupils across Wales to dress as their favourite hero from a moment in time.

It could be a historical figure, a music idol, sports star or even a character from their favourite TV show.

The school which raises the most funds could even be in with a chance to win a visit from a Welsh rugby hero thanks to ESS, Education Staffing Solutions, who are supporting the campaign.

For more information please visit www.tyhafan.org/momentscount or call 029 2053 2255.

Heritage buses in Barry

ON Sunday, May 3, the Cardiff Transport Preservation Group is offering free heritage bus rides all day from its 1930s base at The Bus Depot, Broad Street, in Barry.

This year, the charity group that restores old buses has a number of recent acquisitions on show and hopes to be operating, for the first time, a former Cardiff Bus Dennis Dart, built as recently as 1995, 20 years ago.

The rest are much

older. There are two late 1970s former Cardiff Bus Bristol VR type double deckers, one an open top new to the collection, but those running on the day giving trips will include seven from the 1960s and two from the 1980s.

Mike Taylor, chairman of the heritage bus restoration group said: "On Sunday, May 3, we are offering local people the chance to experience a wide range of old buses and coaches on free trips around Barry, to Rhoe or to Penarth. Buses run every half hour from The Bus Depot."

The bus restoration centre will be open for visitors to look around at some of the group's historic vehicle collection.

Mike continued: "Our biggest event of the year is, of course, the Barry Festival of Transport in June, but this early May event is the third one we have put on and has proved very popular with local people."

The Spring Heritage Bus Running Day starts at 10:30am and buses leave half hourly until 4:30pm, with all journeys starting at The Bus Depot, Broad Street in Barry.



A Guy Arab V dating from 1964, once part of the City of Cardiff bus fleet, seen giving free rides at a past event. If the weather is good, it will be operating again on Sunday, May 3.

Ness is a sweet girl!

The GEM has joined forces with The Dogs Trust to find homes for canines at the Bridgend rehoming centre, 01656 725219.



NESS is a six-year-old Jack Russell.

She is a sweet girl who loves attention and to be around people. She does mix with other dogs, but prefers calm boys over other girls.

She will suit a quiet home with someone who is around during the day, as she doesn't like to be left for too long.

She likes to keep active with walks and off-lead exercise.

Children in the home will need to be over 14 years of age. Ness is a lovely girl and will make a lovely companion.

Linda Feagan, (Supporter relations officer Dogs Trust Bridgend)

Rhoeuse WI Spring Fair

May 9th, 10am-12 midday at the Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoeuse
Admission £2 - includes tea, coffee & biscuits
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Five centuries of the Welsh in London

IN a new three-part series on S4C that started last Sunday, Huw Edwards a'r Cymry Estron: Stori Cymry Llundain, Huw Edwards takes a look at the history of Welsh people living in London.

What influence have the Welsh had on one of the world's biggest capital cities and how has London influenced the life of Wales and the Welsh?

Huw Edwards was born in Bridgend and brought up in Llangennech, but has lived with his wife and five children in London for many years. An active member of the London Welsh community, he finds the history of the Welsh in London fascinating.

"The story of the London Welsh is relevant to anyone who is interested in the history of Wales. One of the most important elements is the religion of the Welsh living in London. I spent five years researching

ploughing through the history of the Welsh chapels and churches in the city.

"This was a project and a half. But there is also an abundance of other information - over five centuries of history of the Welsh living in London," he says.

The S4C series takes viewers to a number of sites with strong Welsh connections, including the Tower of London, Big Ben and Westminster Cathedral. Huw reveals that one of the highlights of the filming for him was a chance find!

"Perhaps one of the highlights for me was coming across the grave of a prominent Welshman from the Victorian era in a cemetery, which is now part of a nature reserve. There are buildings and monuments dedicated to him in Wales, but his resting place is among the brambles of Stoke Newington," says Huw.

Huw Edwards a'r Cymry Estron: Stori Cymry Llundain (part two) is on Sunday, May 3 at 8pm, S4C.

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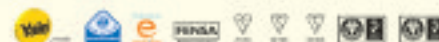
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WHEDON IS THE REAL STAR AS AVENGERS SEQUEL BALANCES STYLE AND SUBSTANCE



by
GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen
Talk on Twitter –
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WITH the summer blockbuster season having officially kicked off with the arrival of *Fast & Furious 7*, it's now time to start wheeling out the big guns for the public's consumption.

First up is *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, as Marvel's great and good superheroes combine together yet again to take down evil. This time around,

however, the evil is as a result of Tony Stark/Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr) attempting to create an army to take over the Avengers' mantle as global protectors; the artificial intelligence becomes too strong and takes shape as Ultron (voiced by James Spader), a machine intent on destroying the thing that puts humanity most at risk – and that is humanity itself.

Along with Quicksilver (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) and Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth

Olsen), will the trio prove too strong for Earth's mightiest heroes?

The question Marvel and writer/director Joss Whedon faced when embarking upon this sequel was, how exactly do you set out to top a film almost universally lauded for its scope, ability to balance the requirements of numerous characters and plot points, and all-round blockbuster entertainment?

The answer comes loud and clear with *Age of Ultron*, a film that

may not be as light on its feet as its predecessor, but is just as thrilling and satisfying, a rush of excitement and spectacle that does exactly what you would hope it would, namely entertain.

That Whedon would undertake a second outing, having tied together the numerous characters so incredibly well first time around, hints at either a deep love for the universe or a masochistic delight in mangling his brain beyond belief.

You can't but feel it's a bit of both, as, due to the characters' individual outings, the landscape for the Avengers has changed in three years, Whedon having to take on board various plot strands at various stages of development for each character – and that he comes up trumps is a testament to his ability as a writer.

His direction is also a lot more confident, both in terms of his ability to marshal the story and also in terms of the action set-pieces, which, from a James Bond-esque opening raid that showcases the whole team in one shot, to a Hulk/Iron Man smackdown, are wonderfully realised.

All characters here get their moment in the sun, with some story strands perhaps lingering a little longer than others, but they all manage to connect. Most impressive is the way that Whedon takes some of the weight from the 'stars' of the film, like Iron Man, and spreads it around, with Jeremy Renner's

Hawkeye benefiting the most (and delivering a strong turn), while subplots like those in and around Bruce Banner/Hulk and Black Widow's will they-won't they romance carrying the emotional

weight.

With zingy dialogue to the fore (best exemplified by Chris Hemsworth's deadpan delivery as Norse god Thor), Whedon adds zip even when the film finds itself slowed down by the gears of the plot, the story densely fitted together with no let up, but that it still moves at a lively pace benefits it greatly.

The performances all fit in perfectly, though outside of Renner, Mark Ruffalo's perpetually anguished Banner, Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow and Hemsworth, James Spader's voice work makes Ultron one of the better villains to appear in the Marvel universe thus far.

If he never quite becomes as powerful as he could, this shortcoming is allayed a little by Spader's malevolent tones, a mix of dark wit and menace that hits the spot perfectly.

A minor quibble is that a Marvel film ends in yet another airborne battle (something that is starting to get particularly tiresome, especially given the refreshing style in which the studio goes about their projects), while the lengthy running time of 141 minutes, incredibly, could have benefited

from a bit longer in order to fully satisfy the elements of the story that get lost in the fervour of the narrative.

However, these are minor quibbles, bugbears that can be overlooked given the frenetic thrill ride that *Avengers: Age of Ultron* takes you on, a glorious blockbuster film that can't help but leave you with a smile on your face.

VERDICT –

Avengers: Age of Ultron is one of the sprightliest, densely-filled blockbusters of recent memory, thanks to the shepherding of Joss Whedon who does a sterling job in creating an action-packed effort that balances style and substance incredibly well.

Despite resorting to the predictable airborne climax, there is plenty to savour in this comic book outing. Highly recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU

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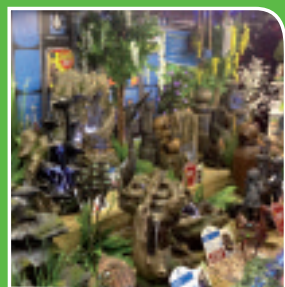
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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

HIGH STREET BARRY MARKET EVENT

SATURDAY 16th MAY 2015

Order Under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
For the prevention of obstruction etc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00

SCHEDULE

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 15th May & Saturday 16th May 2015	High Street Barry, between Island Road and East Street	From 7.00pm Friday 15th May 2015 To 7.00pm Saturday 16th May 2015

Local Signed Diversions shall be in place via Queen Street, Island Road and Broad Street

Escorted access through the closure will be maintained for HGV's that are too large to make the turn from High Street into Island Road.

Dated this 30th day of April 2015

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Director of Visible Services & Housing
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The Food and Drink Festival's ticket offer!

THIS year, the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival decided to offer advanced ticket sales on their website.

This is facilitated by a Penarth-based company Ticketsource and is proving very popular.

Event organiser Polly Wilson explained: "This is a new avenue for us; we set up the link in January and immediately started seeing ticket sales trickling in, which was amazing as the festival is in May. Now, it is really taking off!"

With 2015 day ticket prices remaining at £5 and weekend tickets at £8, with 10 per cent off

and the comparatively small booking charge per transaction (not per ticket as with other providers), you make a saving immediately on over two tickets and will skip the ticket office queues over the weekend.

You will be sent confirmation of the order which you simply take to the Arthur John car park entrance where there will be a dedicated entrance to scan your booking and receive your wristbands.

As with 2013, the wristband tickets will then allow you access to all festival sites and activities, as well as offer many benefits with traders around Cowbridge.

The 10 per cent off tickets offer is being extended until May

6, specifically so that readers of this issue of The Gem can benefit.

On May 6 tickets will revert to full price but will still be available until May 22, and of course will be available on the day.

The Festival will also give a Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival recipe book (to be collected from the main marquee) to the first 100 bookings who quote GEM as part of their name when booking a ticket, eg. enter 'Helen Jones - GEM'.

Full details of the festival are available on the website: cowbridgefoodanddrink.org/buy-tickets.

Councillor is 'confused' by Cairns' claims on Barry Island regeneration

ADMIT to being confused by claims made by Vale Conservative candidate Alun Cairns (GEM, April 23) in relation to the part he played in the regeneration of Barry Island. I would be grateful if Mr Cairns could enlighten me as to any role he actually played.

The successful return of a funfair to Barry Island followed many months of discussions between the Vale Council, Mr Danter and the site owners.

In addition, the much-praised regeneration of the Eastern Promenade was the result of the Vale Council and Welsh Government working together over a number of years.

Similarly, the successful renegotiation of delivery of the second Island road was between the Vale Council, Welsh Government and the Waterfront consortium. I am not sure of any direct involvement of the UK government or Mr Cairns.

I'm happy to provide full proof of my involvement and the input of council officers and would challenge Mr Cairns to provide some evidence to back up his claims.

Coun Lis Burnett, (cabinet member for regeneration, Vale Council).

Alun Cairns responded:

I am grateful to The GEM for giving me the opportunity to respond to the letter from Penarth councillor, Lis Burnett.

In terms of my action, readers needn't take my word for it. Fairground owner, Henry Danter has said: "This would not have gone ahead without Alun

Cairns, who did a great job of banging heads together and supporting everyone involved".

I worked with the various agents, the District Valuer and highlighted the risks to the local authority. Details of the tens of meetings, scores of phone calls and letters to various partners are available on my website.

Regular GEM readers will recall the several updates I gave along the way through my column.

It was also a privilege to take Mr Danter to Downing Street to maintain momentum. I also co-ordinated meetings with key groups in Barry - Pride in Barry and Focus Barry. I felt it was essential to involve local community champions.

The fact is that the landowners, Hilco, considered walking away from the deal on several occasions. It was only with encouragement that they agreed to close the deal with Mr Danter, in spite of the conditions placed on them by the authority. It was only by encouraging persistence from both parties could we win the deal.

The letter demonstrates how out of touch the council cabinet is with regeneration issues in Barry.

I was fearful that unless a deal was struck, the site would have been left derelict, even more run down and an eyesore to visitors. Now, the rejuvenated fairground is attracting visitors and supporting all traders on Barry Island.

This is the start and I am now working with other developers who are showing an interest in investing in Barry Island. I want to see new restaurants, shops and other facilities to make the location a 'year round' resort suitable for all ages.

£250k upgrade at VW dealership

A MAJOR £250,000 refurbishment is due to get under way this month at a Bridgend car retailer.

Sinclair Volkswagen, at Celtic Court, Tremains Road, is doing the work to improve the customer experience but is stressing that it will be business as usual while the refurbishment is carried out.

The work, which should take around 10 weeks, will deliver a state-of-the-art new showroom with improved customer facilities and will feature electrical charging points for the new Volkswagen electric and hybrid vehicles.

Group operations manager Clive Williams said he thought customers would be impressed once the work was finished in late June.

He said: "These are very exciting times for Volkswagen and the Sinclair Group. We are all really looking forward

to the redevelopment. The showroom will be stunning."

As part of the redevelopment, Sinclair Volkswagen has recently expanded its sales and after-sales teams. Clive added: "Both our sales and after-sales teams will operate from portable cabins sited on our forecourt during the construction period. We are pleased that the upgrade of our facilities will also cater for the growing Volkswagen electric and hybrid range."

During the refurbishment, there will be limited 'waiting service appointments'. However, the retailer offers alternative transportation options such as local lifts, courtesy cars and collection and delivery of vehicles.

For more details visit www.sinclairvolkswagen.co.uk/after-sales/convenience-options/forward-transport-options/.

Rural crime strategy discussed

A RECENT Rural Watch demonstration and information event gave Farmers' Union of Wales Glamorganshire members an insight into the latest developments in rural crime prevention.

The demonstration was held at FUF Glamorganshire county executive officer Rachel Saunders' farm at Blackland Farm, Bonvilston, and organised with the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Farmers heard that the Police force is in the process of creating a rural crime strategy to target typical rural crime in the hope that a standard rural crime strategy can eventually be enforced across Wales.

"It was great for our members to be able to discuss some of the methods currently used

to prevent rural crime, for example with trial cameras which record activity during the day and night to capture what is happening in barns and fields," said Mrs Saunders.

"We were particularly pleased to hear that the police want to build on the simple methods of community messaging systems which in the Vale is Rural Watch and includes Gate Safe, e-mails and texts to inform members of the rural community about suspicious activities."

"The Gate Safe scheme was set up during the time when fly grazing was at its peak in the Vale and was a great way to engage with farmers and the rural community."

"All who attended found the demonstration very informative and left with a lot of information and ideas to protect their property, as well as important contact details of the police officers in charge of rural crime in the Vale area," added Mrs Saunders.

Bristol Channel traffic congestion...

A LOOK AT COLLISIONS AROUND THE COAST

ONE might think that it would not be too difficult for ships to keep out of each other's way, but bearing in mind that most vessels chose to head for the optimum route, finding another navigating in the same location can cause all kinds of problems.

First, there is the weather. Today there are many navigational aids such as radar which are relatively recent in maritime history. For centuries, when caught in fog sailors fired muskets to issue a warning of their presence to any ships in the vicinity.

In very bad weather, poor visibility has been the cause of many a shipping disaster. A severe gale can also send a vessel hurtling in all the wrong directions.

Second, the very high tidal range on our stretch of water causes very strong currents that can take ships off course; and third, there's human error.

The amount of vessels making their way in and out of Penarth, Cardiff and Barry was particularly dangerous at night time for skippers. Mind you, it seems that some captains just didn't bother to look!

I am dealing with a relative handful over the last 150 years or so; readers may well be aware of dozens more! Even before Penarth Docks were opened in 1865 we find, on October 14, 1860, an Austrian ship in collision with the French schooner *Jeune Honore* off Lavernock Point.

The Bristol pilot cutter came to rescue three men aboard the French ship who fell into the sea, along with the ship's foremast. Then on December 3, 1863, the barque *Ellings* collided with the full-rigged *Jupiter* of London off Penarth Head in a full north-westerly gale.

The Penarth lifeboat *George Gay* went to the rescue of eight crewmen on the *Jupiter* although, in the event, she was navigated to safety.

Bad weather was again the culprit on November 1, 1872, when the *Magna Charta* of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the Norwegian barque *Jernbyrd* collided in

Penarth Roads. Again, the Penarth lifeboat went into action to assist the *Jernbyrd*, which was holed below the waterline and at risk of sinking.

In the event, emergency repairs carried out by the crew were sufficiently successful for the ship to be towed into Cardiff for repairs.

On the evening of March 29, 1887, the *Strathallan* disaster occurred. Just after 10pm that night, the *Strathallan* left Cardiff for St Malo with coal and one passenger. However, *Adara*, on her way into Penarth Roads, somehow fell foul of a small schooner and dropped anchor to inspect for any damage.

Gaining speed, the captain of the *Strathallan* misjudged the clearance between the two ships and then – disaster. *Strathallan* sank in minutes and five souls were lost in the collision. A few months later, a team from Trinity House arrived to blow up the *Strathallan* to clear the seaway.

STORM DAMAGE

Moving on to October 1890, our attention moves round the coast to Sully where yet another severe gale caused the *Lord Derby* to collide with the *Henry Brand*, at anchor awaiting fair weather, before proceeding to Southampton with her cargo of coal. Having been holed twice in the bows, her master, Captain Sealy, slipped anchor and headed for Penarth mud, where she sank.

With her cargo of iron ore, the *Lord Derby* headed for the shore where she was beached to await repairs.

In the same month the *Glen Gelder* of Aberdeen, heading for Barry for repairs to storm damage, was run down by the Norwegian vessel *Aklert* which did not stop! Despite being taken in tow by the tug *Speedwell*, she sank off Sully (though was later raised and taken into repair at Cardiff).

One of Penarth's many seamen Mr Greatrix, second engineer of the *Aberdare*, on its way to St Nazaire with coal, lost his life when his vessel was struck down by the *Niobe* of Glasgow in

by BRIAN KEITCH

a collision off Barry Island in March 1899.

Meanwhile, the sheer congestion of shipping in the lanes off Penarth made mishaps inevitable. One victim was the Penarth to Cardiff ferry boat *Iona*. It had been announced in January 1898 that the little boat had undergone extensive repairs and refitting, including new boilers.

Then, in late February, at 1am, she was just entering Penarth Dock between the piers when the *Jane Joliffe* tug boat, which was manoeuvring to bring her stern to the dock to start for sea, collided with the *Iona*, by which the latter's paddle-box and sponson were loosened and portions carried away. She had to be laid up for repairs while the *Jane Joliffe* sustained no damage.

On February 22, 1902, it was reported that the barque *Persian*, which had left Cardiff with coal for Table Bay, was run into by the steamer *Florence Pyle* in Penarth Roads. The Board of Trade was called in to make an inspection.

On May 10 of the same year, a ketch belonging to Bridgewater named the *Ornate* of 112 tons was "sunk at approximately 2am on Saturday morning after having been run down by the *SS Sinbad* of Newcastle".

The roads were crowded with shipping, and the *Sinbad* narrowly escaped coming into contact with a steamer at anchor, only to find another close by which she had to avoid, and in doing so was compelled to run into the *Ornate*, which lay helplessly at anchor.

Fortunately, the crew escaped, some by climbing aboard the steamer, and the captain by getting into his own boat, and in it rescuing another man who had taken to the water. The vessel sank about two miles from Penarth Pier in a southerly direction.

Indeed, a week earlier, the *Cruiser* was run down off Penarth Head. The captain's

body was not recovered and after she was raised for salvage, the body of a young boy named Gaskell was found in his bunk. He came from Liverpool, and a further member of the crew was declared missing.

UNDERWATER PERILS

Yet another collision off Penarth, which could have had very serious consequences, occurred in September 1903. On a Tuesday evening, the popular P&A Campbell paddle steamer *Ravenswood*, fully loaded from Cardiff came into contact with the *Harrow* which was bound for Penarth Docks, striking her on the port side and badly smashing the plates about midships.

Earlier in the same year, in April, the pilot boat *Vivid* was in collision with an unidentified steamer off Sully and was rescued by the tugboat *Fastnet*.

The year ended with another mishap when the *SS Hanley* (Messrs Thomas, Radcliffe & Co) came into collision with the *SS Aldworth* of Sunderland off Penarth Dock just after midnight. The last-named was a "splendid vessel of 5,000 tons, and was cut down to the water, and had to be beached on the mud, afterwards docking in the Mount Stuart Dry Dock".

Even ships at the bottom can still provide perils for those afloat, as was the case in spectacular style off the coast of Barry in 1920. On May 9, 1920, the Finnish steamship *Merkur* left Barry Dock with a shipment of coal to Las Palmas when she was in collision with the Newport-bound *Castro Alen* from Spain.

Though badly damaged at the stem, *Castro Alen* managed to make Newport, but the *Merkur* began sinking at once. Fortunately, the crew were rescued by another steamer. Although a 'wreck buoy' was placed on the evening of September 19, the *Zelo*, with 3,000 tons of iron ore bound for Cardiff sailed straight into the wreck of the *Merkur*. *Zelo* started to sink almost immediately.

The crew escaped in a raft, watching their ship go down minutes later. The

pilot cutter *Fancy* heard the crew's shouts for assistance. One crew member – the steward – was not among the survivors.

He was thought to have still been below deck when the ship went under. Salvage operations were attempted but such dangerous obstacles in busy shipping lanes clearly had to be blown up!

Much more recently on Sunday, August 16, 1965 when the P&A Campbell paddle steamer *Cardiff Queen* (the last of this type of vessel ever built in the UK) was backing out of Barry Pier, a small coastal tanker, the *Wheeldale H* came around against the signal from the harbour master and collided with the *Cardiff Queen's* port quarter stowing in three portholes.

As the damage was above the waterline *Cardiff Queen* was permitted to carry out her sailings until permanent repairs could be completed. *Cardiff Queen* was withdrawn from service after the 1966 season, while her quasi-sister *Bristol Queen* came to grief the following season – again at Barry – this time "colliding with an underwater obstacle" which badly damaged her already frail paddle wheels.

She was immediately laid up and retired from service. Her final collision added insult to injury when, laid up in Queen Alexandra Dock awaiting a purchaser, she was hit and badly damaged by the Liberian tanker *Geodor* while manoeuvring with tugs in high winds. *Bristol Queen's* bulwarks, starboard bow and bridge were all crushed.

Bristol Queen's last journey was under tow of the tug *Fairplay XI* on Wednesday, March 21, 1968, bound for the breaker's yard in Flushing, Belgium.

The *Cardiff Queen* was soon to follow. After an abortive effort to save her as a floating club/restaurant in Newport came to nothing – she too ended up in the breakers – this time Messrs Cashmore's (as did the Campbell steamers *Ravenswood* and *Britannia* before her).

Next: "We Declare Penarth Dock Open!" (at last) June 10, 1865

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Herbert R Thomas is welcomed on appointment to HSBC panel

HERBERT R THOMAS (HRT Commercial) has been appointed to the HSBC bank panel to conduct its commercial valuations.

The Cowbridge-based agent will now be able to conduct commercial valuations up to the value of £1 million for the major bank across south east Wales.

HRT Commercial was selected after demonstrating its knowledge and commercial experience across the South East Wales region.

This is the latest bank panel appointment for the company, which is also on the panels for Principality, Allied Irish, Lancashire Mortgages, Handelsbanken, Monmouthshire and Swansea Building Societies, TSB and Shawbrook.

Targeting major bank panels has been a key focus for the commercial agent having appointed senior commercial surveyor Jonathan Davies in 2014, who has a wealth of experience working with major

banks and building societies.

Jonathan Davies, senior commercial surveyor at HRT Commercial, said: "We're delighted to have been appointed to several major bank panels and building societies. Over the years, we have witnessed an increased willingness from a number of banks to lend, which is leading to an increase of commercial valuations, so by being appointed to these panels, it really opens up a new market to us."

"It is a rigorous process to become part of the panels, which often involves drafting sample reports or answering questionnaires, so it's a great achievement to know our hard work and dedication has been recognised. We're looking forward to continuing to expand our work in this market in the future."

Daniel Rees, relationship director at HSBC, said: "It's extremely important to us to have high quality advisors that we trust to ensure valuations reflect the true worth of the property and we felt HRT really demonstrated their knowledge and experience and were very honest throughout the whole process. We are delighted to have them as part of our bank panel advisors and look forward to working with them on future projects."

Founded in 1926, Herbert R Thomas is a multi-discipline property agency specialising in residential sales and lettings, commercial property transactions, property development, auctions and agricultural services. The company has three offices – Neath, Cowbridge and Bridgend.

PRAISE FOR 'CHAMPION'

THROUGH your letters page, I would personally like to thank Mr Alun Cairns for his tireless hard work championing the Vale, as well as helping individuals with various issues.

On a personal note, Mr Cairns gave our action group much needed support to protect a greenfield site at Primrose Hill from being turned into a housing estate.

Tim Bird, Cowbridge.

Christians are being persecuted

IWRITE to comment briefly on the coming general election in Barry, to discourage voters from voting Conservative because of their policies put into law that are opposed to Christian principles that have been held in Britain for centuries.

This is most clearly seen in the 'Same Sex' marriage law that sanctions sexual activity that the Bible calls sinful in God's sight.

Christians who are

concerned to speak and act with good conscience before God are now being persecuted with threats of fines or imprisonment for doing so. While we are ready to suffer for our faith, can our society want us to do so?

Since all the other parties but one supported this in Parliament it would seem right to abstain from voting for a party that did not support it.

John Cook, Barry.

(GEM note: Whatever one's opinions, above all, it is vitally important that people exercise their vote.)

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ARNO ROAD, BARRY*H4U Reference 250875*

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement



- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £89.87 per week
 including service charge

ARTHUR DAVIS COURT, BARRY*H4U Reference 108902*

Suitable for a single person over 55 - no pets



- Studio apartment
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme co-ordinator & garden

Rent £106.58 per week
 including service charges

CARMARTHEN HOUSE, PENARTH*H4U Reference 11337*

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement



- Three-bedroom maisonette
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £98.06 per week

DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY*H4U Reference 1115997*

Suitable for a single person or couple. Preference given to applicants with excellent tenancy history



- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £83.69 per week

NORTH WALK, BARRY*H4U Reference 217952*

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

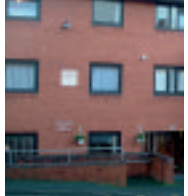


- Three-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £96.28 per week
 including water charges

PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY*H4U Reference 113716*

Suitable for a single person over 50



- One-bedroom flat
- Second floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £93.49 per week
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POWIS VIEW, BARRY*H4U Reference 1098653*

Suitable for an older family. Priority will be given to applicants with an excellent tenancy history as references will be required



- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Double-glazing
- Central heating

Rent £96.72 per week

SEAVIEW PLACE, LLANTWIT MAJOR*H4U Reference 234887*

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement



- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £110.22 per week
 including water charges

THOMPSON STREET, BARRY*H4U Reference 113704*

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement



- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed garden

Rent £101.46 per week
 including service charge

TY GWENFO, BARRY (RE-ADVERTISED)*H4U Reference 1007687*

Suitable for a single person or couple over -no pets



- One-bedroom flat
- Third floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal door and parking

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 including service charge

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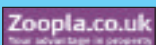
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**COURTENAY ROAD, BARRY**

Mid terraced traditional, two separate reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, two double bedrooms, 1st floor family bathroom, in need of some modernising, no chain. ER=E.

£80,000**BARRY ROAD, BARRY**

End of terrace, traditional dwelling, two reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, modern bathroom, enclosed rear garden, gated access - no chain. ER=E.

£124,950**GLOUCESTER CLOSE, BARRY**

Much loved semi detached, living room, open plan kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, side access - no chain, viewing essential.

£129,950**GELYN Y CLWR, BARRY**

Well presented, modern elevated, mid terraced, WC cloakroom, living room, kitchen/breakfast, two bedrooms, cul de sac position, ER=D.

£134,950**GLADSTONE ROAD, BARRY**

Bay fronted semi detached, spacious throughout, well presented, two reception rooms, shower/cloakroom, four double bedrooms, family bathroom, garage/lane access, far reaching sea views, ER=D.

£239,950**COLLEGE ROAD, BARRY**

End of terraced - in need of modernising, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family shower/wet room, larger than average garden, side access, no chain, no chain, viewing advised.

£134,950**CERI ROAD, RHOOSE**

Three bedrooms, opposite playing fields, superb for families, semi detached dwelling, living room, kitchen/diner, driveway/garage, enclosed rear garden, ER=D.

£164,950**SWIN Y MOR, SOUTH VIEW RHOOSE**

Versatile living throughout, modern detached built approx. 7 years. Ground flr: WC, living room, 2 bedrooms, wet room, kitchen/breakfast, utility room. 1st flr: 2 further bedrooms, fam. bathroom, sweeping private driveway, sea views from the front.

£399,950**MEADOW VIEW, BARRY**

Mid link modern, well presented, living room, kitchen/breakfast room, two bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, UPVC DG, GCH, designated parking, ER=C.

£117,950**CUDD Y COED, BARRY**

Spacious modern detached, 4 bedrooms (ensuite), converted garage, living room opening to dining, kitchen 170 approx./breakfast, utility, fabulous rear garden, raised decked sun terrace, viewing essential, ER=D.

£249,995**CORA STREET, BARRY**

Two double bedrooms & box room/study, mid terraced traditional, living/dining room, utility area, WC cloak, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, ER=E.

£112,500**ST PAULS AVENUE, BARRY**

Mid terraced traditional, spacious living - well presented. Ground flr: living room, kitchen/diner, 1st floor: three bedrooms, bathroom, attic area: hobby area, basement area: further room, bathroom, enclosed rear garden - garage, no chain.

£169,950**GLADSTONE ROAD, BARRY**

Well presented, mid terraced traditional, three bedrooms, 1st floor bedroom, open plan modern kitchen, enclosed garden, garage - no chain.

£124,950**COED MAWR, BARRY**

Three bedrooms, semi detached, living, dining, extended kitchen, conservatory, views across farmland/sea, longer than average driveway, garden room formerly garage, viewing recommended, ER=E.

£184,950**HELLAS DRIVE, BARRY**

Modern detached dwelling, constructed approx. 29 years ago, recently refurbished, WC cloak, living room, kitchen/diner, utility conservatory, four bedrooms (master ensuite), luxury family bathroom, garage - parking.

£309,950**MIN Y MOR, BARRY**

Detached bungalow, two bedrooms, living room, kitchen/breakfast, bathroom, detached garage to rear, sea views towards Bristol Channel, no chain - needing modernisation, ER=D.

£249,950**HEOL ERYR MOR, BARRY ISLAND**

Mid terraced modern, stunning sea views, living room, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms (ensuite), family bathroom, garage/parking, viewing essential.

£149,500**GLAN Y MOR, BARRY**

2nd floor apartment: two bedrooms - ensuite, approx. 16ft living room, balcony with water views, GCH, offered with no chain, designated parking, EPC=C.

£99,950**CARADOC AVENUE, BARRY**

Three bedrooms, semi detached, living room, kitchen/diner, driveway, ideal room to extend, no chain, ER=D.

£124,950**ST BRANNOCKS CLOSE, BARRY**

Semi detached, extended dwelling, well presented, living room, open plan kitchen/diner, sitting area, three bedrooms - balcony off master, viewing essential, ER=D.

£169,950**GREENACRES, BARRY**

End of link terraced, modern build, three bedrooms, living room opening to conservatory, enclosed rear garden, parking to side.

£135,000**BUTTRILLS ROAD, BARRY**

Three bedrooms, semi detached, extended traditional, study, dining room, sunken lounge, enclosed garden, large patio with far reaching views.

£189,950**PENCOEDTRE ROAD, BARRY**

Semi detached bungalow, two double bedrooms, living room, conservatory, larger than average driveway, garage, no chain, enclosed hot tub to remain.

£150,000**ST OSWALDS ROAD, BARRY**

Mid terraced traditional, through living/dining, replacement kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, viewing essential, ER=E.

£112,500

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£500,000

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Cowbridge

£285,000

A well presented, semi-detached house, situated in a popular area with easy access to the town centre. Hall, living / dining room, fitted oak-finished kitchen, 3 bedrooms, and a shower/bathroom with contemporary style fittings. Off-road parking, a single garage with utility area and separate WC, plus a rear sun terrace and lawned garden. Full Planning Consent has been approved to replace the existing garage to make the addition of a two storey extension. EPC Rating - D



St Nicholas

£795,000

- New build bungalow
- Standing in 1.07 acres
- 4 bedrooms
- EPC Rating – TBC



Llanmaes

£615,000

- Detached bungalow
- Separate annex
- C.4.46 acre paddock
- EPC Rating – E



Cowbridge

£320,000

- Detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Prime location
- EPC Rating – D



Boverton

£179,950

- Grade II listed Cottage
- Two bedrooms
- Large private garden
- EPC Rating – E



Llantwit Major

£245,950

- Tea Rooms unaffected
- 1st floor flat included
- Potential rents c.£15,000 pa
- EPC Rating – E



Penmark

£435,000

- Detached House
- Four bedrooms
- Double Garage
- EPC Rating – D



Llantwit Major

£374,950

- Detached & extended
- Five bedrooms
- Rural views
- EPC Rating – E



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Old Beaupre Castle Cowbridge

- A medieval fortified manor house
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- 4 reception rooms
- EPC - E

£1,250,000



Eastgate Cowbridge

- Short walk onto Cowbridge high street
- Recently refurbished
- Garage & studio accessed by private lane
- 3 bedrooms

£555,000



Hensol Road Miskin

- A grand Victorian Gentlemen's Residence
- Extending to around 4.46 acres
- 9 bedrooms
- Court yard with 9 loose boxes
- EPC - D

£1,300,000

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**Well Walk
Barry** £325,000
Semi Detached Family Home
Three bedrooms
Three reception rooms
Cul De Sac Location
EPC Rating: D
Barry Branch



**Pendoylan Close
Barry** £89,950
Mid Link Property
Three Bedrooms
Great Value
No Chain
Barry Branch



**Nyth Yr Eos
Barry** £329,950
OPEN TO OFFERS
Detached
Double Garage
5 Bed, 3 Reception Rooms & Study
Close to the Sea
Barry Branch



**Clos Celyn
Barry** £189,950
Semi Detached Family Home
Three Bedrooms
Extended
Viewing recommended
Barry Branch



**Dobbins Road
Barry** £102,000
Traditional Mid Terrace, Outskirts Of Barry
Through Lounge/ Diner
Three Bedrooms
Ground Floor Bathroom
Enclosed Rear Garden
Barry Branch



**Dock View Road
Barry** £125,000
Duplex Apartment
Two Bedrooms
Lounge with a mezzanine level
Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating
NO CHAIN
Barry Branch



**Heol Y Dryw
Barry** £275,000
Detached
Four Bedrooms
Sea Views
Conservatory
NO CHAIN
Barry Branch



**Heol Y Gaer
Barry** £154,950
SEA VIEWS
Two Double Bedrooms
Living Room, Kitchen
Allocated Parking
Situated On The Knap
Barry Branch



**Holton Road
Barry** £72,000
Upper Floor Flat
1 Bedroom
Fitted Kitchen
Well Presented
Available With Or Without Tenant
Barry Branch



**Lower Holmes Street
Barry** £85,000
Well Presented Upper Floor Flat
One Bedroom
Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
Spacious
Viewing Essential
Barry Branch



**Picton Road
Barry** £174,950
Semi Detached
Three Bedrooms
Two Living Areas
Fitted Kitchen
Conservatory
Barry Branch



**Porthkerry Road
Barry** £170,000
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Two & Three Bedrooms
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Luxury kitchens & bathrooms
Barry Branch



**Porthkerry Road
Barry** £199,000
Romilly Quarter
Stunning Conversion of Chapel & School House
Two Bedrooms
Off Road Parking
Viewing Essential
Barry Branch



**Station Street
Barry** £125,000
Recently Decorated
Three Bedrooms
Lounge/dining
New Kitchen
Easy Maintainable gardens
Barry Branch

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**Westward Rise
Barry** £300,000
Sought after location, Detached property
Four bedrooms, En-suite shower room
Lounge, Kitchen/diner, Garage
Cul-de-sac location, Sea views, Energy Rating: D
£1000 cashback offered upon completion
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**Barry Road
Barry** £375,000
IDEAL FOR INVESTORS
OFF ROAD PARKING
15 BEDROOMS
EN-SUITE ROOMS
OFFICE SPACE
Barry Branch



**Collard Cresent
Barry** £169,950
Two Bed semi detached bungalow
Two Reception Rooms
Fully Fitted Kitchen
Immaculately Presented
Viewing Recommended, EPC Rating TBC
Barry Branch



**Cassy Hill
Barry** £155,000
Beautifully Presented
Four Bedrooms
Semi Detached
Off Road Parking
Low Maintenance Garden
Barry Branch



**Clos Mancheldowne
Barry** £175,000
End Link Home
Beautifully Decorated Throughout
Fitted Kitchen
2/3 Bedrooms
Garage
Barry Branch



**Cwm Ciddy Lane
Barry** £575,000
Imposing Barn Conversion
Five Bedrooms
Bespoke Kitchen With Aga
Plethora of Original Features
Ample Parking
Barry Branch



**Dorset Avenue
Barry** £140,000
Family Home
Three Bedrooms
Two Reception Rooms
Tiered Garden
Out Buildings
Barry Branch



**Heol Broadlands
Barry** £190,000
Detached Home
3 Bedrooms
Open Plan Living/Dining
Fitted Kitchen
NO CHAIN
Barry Branch



**East Walk
Barry** £115,000
Well Presented
Three Bedrooms
Mid Terrace
Off Road Parking
Rear Garden
Barry Branch



**Porthkerry Road
Barry** £124,995
Mid Terrace
Three Bedrooms
Ideal Investment
Rear Garden
Viewing Recommended
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**Trinity Street
Barry** £125,000
Traditional Mid Terrace
Two Double Bedrooms
Through Lounge/ Diner
South Facing Garden
West End Location
Barry Branch



**Heol Y Nant
Barry** £127,000
Semi Detached
Three Double Bedrooms
Two Reception Rooms
Off Road Parking
Cul De Sac Position
Barry Branch



**Rhodfar Mor
Barry** £349,999
Five Bedrooms
Three Reception Rooms
Conservatory
Landscaped Gardens
Double Garage, Driveway
Barry Branch



**Romilly Road
Barry** £299,950
5 Bedrooms
West End Location
Coastal Views
Garage & Coach House
Landscaped Gardens
Barry Branch



**Sherbourne Close
Barry** £149,950
OPEN TO OFFERS
Semi Detached
Two Bedrooms
Immaculately Presented
Fitted Kitchen, Garden
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**Wenvoe Terrace
Barry** £175,000
Semi Detached Family Home
Two Reception Rooms
4 Bedrooms
Great Location
Stunning Views
Barry Branch



**27 Teifi Drive,
Barry,
CF62 7TL
Barry** £160,000
We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £160,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is D.
Allen & Harris, 21 High Street, Barry.
CF62 7EA. 01446 747878



**Cliffwood View
Barry** £289,950
Detached Bungalow
Sought After Cul De Sac Location
Three Bedrooms
Living Room, Dining Room, Garage
Well Maintained Garden
Barry Branch



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Branch Director
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- Detached Family Home
- Lovely Cul-de-sac location



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Court Road, Barry

- 4 Double Bedrooms
- 4 Bathrooms
- Desirable Location



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South Road, Sully

- Reduced Price
- 6 Double Bedrooms
- Granny Annexe



Buy Me

£180,000

Porthkerry Road, Barry

- Large Edwardian Home
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- No Onward Chain



Buy Me

£190,000

Pontypridd Road, Barry

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- West End Location
- Off Road Parking



Buy Me

£215,000

Melville Close, Barry

- 3 Bedroom Semi
- Stunning Views
- Off Road Parking



Buy Me

£125,000

Glan-Y-Mor, Barry

- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- Allocated Parking

**Yours
could
be
here
too!**



Buy Me

£125,000

Llydstep Road, Barry

- 3 Bedroom Semi
- Reduced Price
- No Chain



Buy Me

£150,000

Merioneth Place, Barry

- 4 Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Garage



Buy Me

£150,000

Newlands Street, Barry

- 3 Large Bedrooms
- No Chain
- Close to Amemities



Buy Me

£110,000

Morgan Street, Barry

- 3 Bedroom Terrace
- Completely Renovated
- No Chain



Buy Me

£170,000

Rhodfa'r Gwagenni, Barry

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- 3 Bathrooms
- Garage



Buy Me

£350,000

Clos Y Fulfran, Barry

- 5 Bedrooms
- 4 Bathrooms
- Garage and Driveway

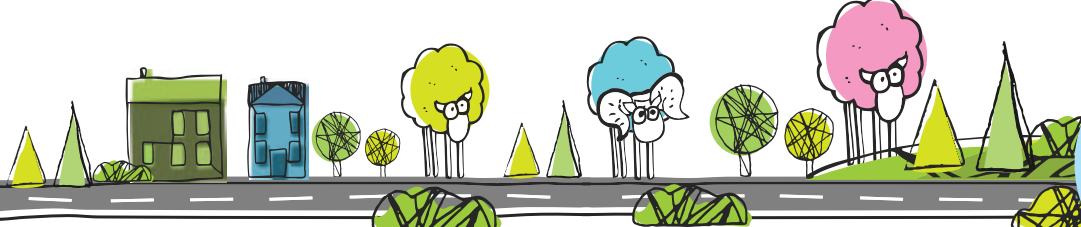


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£155,000

Treharne Road, Barry

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- Semi Detached
- Detached Garage



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Topstak sponsors Gabby and Rooney in the 2015 season

PROFESSIONAL Welsh horsewoman, Gabby Baldock (21), and her horse Rooney, are to benefit from Topstak sponsorship for the 2015 eventing season.

Gabby is currently based with international event rider Selina Milnes in Clevedon near Bristol, where she also keeps Rooney.

"Working with Selina is an excellent opportunity as she is very experienced at top level competitive riding," said Gabby.

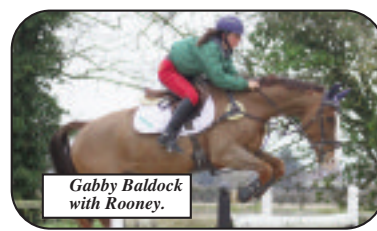
"The facilities are also outstanding, so I am learning a great deal."

Gabby bought Rooney, a 15.2 hands high, 10-year-old chestnut gelding, three years ago, and in that time the pair have moved steadily up the competition grades. Gabby now describes them as inseparable.

"I am the only person who rides Rooney, so a very strong bond has developed between us. He's a fantastic little horse, and I love him to bits."

"We have come a long way in three years, and we are working very hard to make sure that we continue to make great strides throughout the season."

The event season runs until the end of October,



Gabby Baldock with Rooney.

and Gabby is delighted to have a helping hand from Topstak.

"The sponsorship has helped us so much. Rooney now has new equipment, so he really looks the part, and I have been able to pay for extra coaching sessions that will help improve our performance."

Adam Pedersen, Topstak director, added: "We are delighted to help Gabby develop her talent and to widen her competitive horizons by providing sponsorship. We wish her and Rooney the very best, and will look forward to their progress this year with great interest."

All eyes are on Zara's Frankenstorm at Tredegar Farmers' point-to-point

THE Tredegar Farmers Hunt are holding their annual point-to-point steeplechases at the popular Lower Machen racecourse on Saturday, and all eyes will be on Zara Phillips's Frankenstorm if her six-year-old bay gelding lines up for the Subaru restricted open race for which there are 20 entries.

The Princess Royal's daughter has also entered Mr Anton Palmer's Devils Boys, which finished second at the North Cotswold on Easter Monday, the

same day that Wales' Tom David, her assistant trainer, won on BrintheBranston and Frankenstorm.

122 entries have been received for the seven races and racing gets under way at 2pm with the members' race and the ones to note here are Ski Sunday and Heavinstown.

Some of the horses down to run are also entered for the Banwen Miners meeting on May Bank Holiday Monday and it will be interesting to see where Beth Roberts decides to run her prolific Chesnut Annie, who recently chalked-up her 40th success.

There are 16 entries for the confined and these include David

Brace's recent winners BrintheBranston and Dunraven Royal.

Of the 15 down to face the starter in the men's open, these include Patricktom Boru, who unseated Evan David four fences from the finish in last Friday's Dunraven Bowl at Chepstow Racecourse, former National Hunt performer Cygnet and Divine Intavention.

In the two-and-a-half mile open maiden race, Captain Camelot, Golanzine and Boost The Power look the pick of the 22 entries when in the open maiden over the three miles course Sahara Haze, Millys Delight and To Hell and Back could fight out the finish.

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Sports under-9s in tournament action



THE final Sunday of the season saw Bridgend Sports under-9s take part in the Pencoed Mini Rugby Festival.

The Sports were in a pool of five clubs with Bedwas, Cwmbran, Tonyrefail and Whitchurch. They returned home undefeated, having topped their group with three wins and a draw. Disappointingly, with no semi-finals, they lost out on a place in the final, as Llandaff and Ebbw Vale came top of their respective groups with four wins. Ebbw Vale defeated Llandaff in the final.

The Sports players played to their full potential all day as they

produced some solid performances. The day started with a victory as they defeated Bedwas 5-0 in their first game, with tries scored by Dewi Worrall (2), Mackenzie Dent, Joel Rogers and Tom Chick.

In this first game, the Sports rediscovered their best form, as they frequently pressed the opposition back with some impressive defensive work and then crafted tries from good handling and running skills.

In their second game of the day, the Sports took the field against familiar rivals, Tonyrefail. The three previous games between the teams this season had ended with one draw and two narrow victories

for the Sports.

This game proved to be no different as the Sports took a 2-1 lead into the last minute with tries from Dewi Worrall and Joel Rogers, but they were denied the victory as Tonyrefail scored a last-minute equaliser which was to prove extremely costly for the Sports at the end of the day.

The Sports still topped the group, a position they were not to lose all day. Whitchurch were next up and the Sports were determined to avenge a narrow 6-5 defeat to Whitchurch at the St Peters RFC tournament in March.

They edged into an early lead with a try from Dewi Worrall, only for Whitchurch to hit

back immediately. Joel Rogers scored next for the Sports, but Whitchurch equalised again.

Joel Rogers crowned off another impressive performance, following his man of the tournament award at the Bridgend District Tournament, as he secured a 3-2 win for the Sports with a fine individual try.

In the fourth and final game the blue and whites believed that a win would enable them to progress to a semi-final as they faced Cwmbran. They turned in a performance that demonstrated the huge potential each squad member has as they ran in five tries without response.

Tries were scored by Tom Chick (2), Joel Rogers (2) and Ieuan Pilliner. The team's attacking skill was supported with some solid defensive work.

The performance was to go unrewarded, however, as the tournament progressed straight to a final

between Llandaff and Ebbw Vale.

The day had helped round off a very positive season for the Bridgend Sports under-9s and the squad has successfully made the transition from tag to the contact game.

The day was a big fillip to the squad, following a disappointing showing at the previous district tournament and they can look forward excitedly to next season.

The excitement will continue this Sunday as the club holds the end of season presentation day for the mini and junior sections, at the Bandstand Field.

Following a short break, the squad will return for summer training as they take another step up into the under-10s age group.

New players are always very welcome to join us - visit our web page or follow us on Twitter, @SportsMiniRugby, for more information.

SP

Mules hold on for victory over Trebanos



Evan Williams evades the tackle of a Trebanos defender. PICTURES BY PETER GILLING



Chris Tossell leads a charge of Kenfig Hill attackers.



Tom Briggs bursts through the midfield.

THE opening 25 minutes of this game between Kenfig Hill RFC and Trebanos RFC was a closely-contested affair with some fine tackling and no quarter given by either side.

Eventually the first points were scored by Trebanos with a penalty by the outside half Kristian Jones.

The Mules came back strongly with a well-

executed try, thanks the speedy young winger Aaron Grabham finding the support of firstly Rhodri Clarke and then centre Marc Fitzgerald, who scored in the corner; outside half Nicky Giles converted.

Just before the end of the half a clever handling move resulted in scrum half Tom Briggs scoring and Rhodri Clark converting, making it 14-3 to Kenfig Hill at halftime.

The second started well for the Mules with a well-

following a lucky bounce, scoring a breakthrough try. For the next 20 minutes, Kenfig had to work hard to absorb the Trebanos pressure but eventually it told and the Trebanos winger Nathan Jones scored in the corner. Kenfig Hill countered with two tries in quick succession through wing Aaron Grabham and captain Chris Tossell.

Trebanos did not give up and more sustained pressure resulted in a penalty try, followed by a forward driven try for second row Declan Dale.

Kenfig Hill supporters became slightly nervous but the players held out to win 31-20.

Scorers: Kenfig Hill - tries Chris Tossell, Marc Fitzgerald, Tom Briggs, Aaron Grabham (2); conversions Nicky Giles, Rhodri Clark, Lloyd Giles. Trebanos - tries Nathan Jones, Declan Dale; conversions Kristian Jones; penalty Kristian Jones.

DHD

Phoenix through to National finals day

PENCOED Phoenix won through to the National Finals day at Llandovery on May 10 with a 38-20 victory over Llandovery at the Woodlands Ground.

The home side scored six tries, with Amy Stevens getting a hat-trick, and Lowri Reeves, Kathryn Stonehouse and returning Welsh international Melissa Clay also getting on the scoresheet; Sam Trickey added four conversions.

For Celtic, Welsh international Fionn Bowen and Rhian Nokes were prominent at centre and outside half respectively. A match highlight was a 60-metre run from Phoenix prop Lowri Francis!

Phoenix will now meet Seven

Sisters in the National Plate final.

PENCOED YOUTH 5 NANTYFFYLLON 17

This Bridgend & District youth cup final played at the Old Parish ground was an evenly-fought affair, with the Llynfi Valley side running out deserved winners.

Nanty opened the scoring with a try and conversion from outside-half Tadgh McGuckin. Approaching the interval Cameron Fyvie Davies shot over in the left-hand corner for Pencoed, and Nantyffyllon led 5-7.

Despite the efforts of the young Pencoed side, a mature Nanty pack ensured the trophy stayed in the Valley, with further tries from tight head prop Keiron Griffiths and second row Gethin John.

TR

Disabled team on top form at tournament

NEWLY-FORMED Penybont FC Disabled Team recently took on a Stanley Norris MBE FC Team at Bryntirion in a charity game to raise money for the Wyndham Boys & Girls Club and themselves for their tournaments this year.

After a strong start by the Ognore Vale team, who led 2-1 at the break, the Penybont Disabled Team came out with all guns blazing to win 10-5 at the final whistle.

Although the game was played in good spirit, it wasn't about who won or lost, it was about two teams getting together to raise money for their

worthy causes.

This is the third time that the two teams have met and the third time the Disabled Team has come up trumps. We will now play again in August on the Planka.

Well done to everyone who took part.

KH

Hole-in-one for Sam (22)

A Bridgend golfer will have no excuse for missing his next tee-time after winning a limited-edition BOSS watch for achieving his first hole-in-one.

Sam Forman, 22, scored his maiden ace on the 144-yard, par-three 14th at Southerndown GC, and the eight-handicapper was rewarded with membership of the exclusive BOSS Watches H1Club and a specially-commemorative timepiece.

The luxury German brand has once again pledged to reward club golfers with an exclusive watch for every hole-in-one recorded during a club competition in 2015, after giving away more than £1m-worth of limited-edition timepieces since its launch in 2013 - and Forman is among the latest to achieve the feat this year.

The scheme is open to any golfer whose club uses HowDidiDo - a free-to-use, web-based social network for golfers - and anybody playing in official club competitions is eligible.

Cowbridge darts league

ON Tuesday, April 21, the final full programme of league matches was played.

The Edmondes B by defeated the Old Post Ladies 8-1 while the Highwayman Inn only won 6-3 against Edmondes, ensured they claimed runners-up slot by just one point.

The Farmers Arms came close to a big upset by losing narrowly to the league champions Llanharry 4-

5. In the remaining match the Edmondes A defeated the Hare and Hounds 5-4.

Present league standings after 20 matches, are: Llanharry (152 points), Edmondes B (117), Highwayman Inn (116), Edmondes A (103), Hare and Hounds (85), Farmer's Arms (740), Edmondes C (7) and Old Post Ladies (37).

On May 5, the semi-finals and final of the GWC will be played at the Hare and Hounds.

The semi-final line-up is Edmondes A versus Llanharry and Edmondes C versus Edmondes B.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apns.co.uk.

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Family Notices

JONES

Christopher John (Chris)

Originally from Rumney, Cardiff, Chris lived for many years in West Pontnewydd and Llanyrafon, Cwmbran and latterly in Porthcawl.

Long time member and past captain of Tredegar Park Golf Club and past president of South Wales Coast Golf Society, Royal Corps of Signals.

Died peacefully in Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court Home, Porthcawl on April 14, after a long battle fought with courage and determination, aged 86 years.

Devoted husband of Mair, who died in January 2015, dad of Heather and Christine and their husbands Rodger and Martyn; also proud and much loved grandpa of Beth, bampa of James and Jonathan.

Funeral at Cowbridge United Free Church, Westgate, Cowbridge CF71 7AQ on Tuesday, May 5 at 11.45am, followed by Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu to Velindre Fundraising, Velindre Cancer Centre, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 2TL. Club/society or regimental ties. Contact Thomas Bros 01446 775681.

JENKINS

Joyce

Peacefully passed away at Llandough Hospital on April 3. Dear sister of Barbara, Sheila, Rosie and Len. She will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Funeral service at AG Adams & Sons Funeral Home at 12 noon on Friday, May 1, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only, but donations in lieu can be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

LOOSMORE

William (Bill)

Carol, Gareth and Sally wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their love and support at this very sad time, and for their attendance at Bill's funeral.

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Thank You

THANK YOU

Winnie has been found.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the neighbours that have helped and allowed us to search their gardens.



THANK YOU

Eileen Eeles would like to thank all her friends for the lovely cards and flowers, presents and donations received on the occasion of her 90th Birthday. A special thank you to David and Diane and also to St Peter's Church and St Curig's Church and the Rhosue Art Club.

Birthdays

Happy 15th Birthday

JOE BAKER



on 5 May.
Lots of love
Mum, Dad,
Abigail & all
the family xxx

Happy 18th Birthday

Chloe Watkins

on 3rd May *
My darling Princess, love you with all my heart. So very proud of you, you're a beautiful young woman.

All our love Mum, Sam, Josh, Jake, Matty & the adopted one Gee xxx

(Smiley) Miley Jones

Happy 7th Birthday Sweetheart



Blow you kisses
every day
A special kiss is
on its way
Love Nan & Gramps
Love you always xxx

Happy 18th Birthday

CHLOE WATKINS

on 3 May

Can't believe you're 18.
We love you and we are very proud of you.

Lots of love, Nanny, Bampy, Auntie Helen, Uncle Rob, Auntie Sian, Uncle Grant, Steph, Tasha & Lucy xxxx

Public Notices

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00341/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: New pitched roof over existing flat roof to provide first floor accommodation and minor adaptations

Location/Lleoliad: The Bungalow, 7, Rectory Road Lane, Penarth
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00369/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Amendments of site boundaries and location of dwelling within the site, new gazebo structure adjacent to swimming pool, and replacement storage building in lieu of an existing dilapidated railway carriage, to house animal feed and small livestock/poultry
Location/Lleoliad: Brook Farm, Llanmaes
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: Llanmaes

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00373/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Block paving to drive and footpath
Location/Lleoliad: 28, Victoria Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00388/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Proposed demolition of existing single storey rear extension, erection of new single storey side extension at the rear, alterations to existing detached garage, minor internal and external works
Location/Lleoliad: 14, Victoria Square, Penarth
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00352/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Proposed to take up and remove a section of the existing cobbled floor in barn and concrete
Location/Lleoliad: Tynmaen Barns, Near Ewenny

Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00385/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Works to existing boundary wall with Plymouth House including demolition and rebuilding upper section and increasing height of other sections of the existing boundary retaining wall
Location/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to Plymouth House, West Street, Llantwit Major

Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00449/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Installation of flue outlet and a plume deflector for a new oil fired boiler to the side of the building.

Remove existing modern sauna in the boiler room to resite the new boiler and allow flue to exit building
Location/Lleoliad: Rectory House, Peterston Super Ely
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00335/RES
Proposal/Cynnyg: Erection of 100 no. 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses and associated works
Location/Lleoliad: Land at St. Johns Well, St. Athan

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00360/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Facility for the recycling of incinerator bottom ash (IBA) to produce aggregates (IBAA) and the recovery of metals
Location/Lleoliad: Wimborne Road, Barry

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00392/OUT
Proposal/Cynnyg: Outline application for residential development, together with alignment of initial section of highway linking Cardiff Road and Cross Common Road
Location/Lleoliad: Land at Cardiff Road/Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys

May affect a Public Right of Way Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00335/RES
Proposal/Cynnyg: Erection of 100 no. 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses and associated works
Location/Lleoliad: Land at St. Johns Well, St. Athan

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyo'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00335/RES
Proposal/Cynnyg: Erection of 100 no. 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses and associated works
Location/Lleoliad: Land at St. Johns Well, St. Athan

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00392/OUT
Proposal/Cynnyg: Outline application for residential development, together with alignment of initial section of highway linking Cardiff Road and Cross Common Road
Location/Lleoliad: Land at Cardiff Road/Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 30 April, 2015

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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Brian's point to point seasons past – 1984

THIS week, I have raided my press cuttings scrap book for 1984.

The first cutting that caught my eye was headed 'Sister's Response Wins It' and the story reads: "A brother and sister fought out the finish of the members' race at the Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases on Saturday – and it was the sister who earned the cheers of the large crowd."

The races were held at St Hilary and I reported: "Carol Thomas (20), who was having only her sixth ride in a point-to-point, set out on her grandfather's *Cottage Chest* to make all the running."

"But four fences from home she was joined by her 22-year-old brother John who was riding former winning hurdler *Chastity Belt*. Farmer John actually headed Carol, who is a secretary, three fences from the finish and called across to her to 'hang on'. Carol responded to her brother's remarks by putting in a renewed challenge and, jumping the last just in front, held on to win by four lengths. Peter Thomas, no relation, finished third on *Mini-Tycoon*.

Another woman rider Shan Morgan, beat her 10 male rivals when landing division two of the restricted open on her father's *Nicobar*.

Brian Price, from Chepstow, landed a 50-1 shock win in the the open when partnering John Parfitt's ex-hurdler *Eggington* to a length win over odds-on favourite *Crosstown*. The grey *Fonman* made it five wins in a row when taking the adjacent.

Fonman was ridden by Tim Rooney, whose famous uncle, Irish trainer Willie Rooney, who rode more than 400 winners in Ireland, actually came from the Vale.

Other winners at this meeting included *Greenstown*, ridden by Kevin Cousins and *Dozy Moses* partnered by John Llewellyn. The ladies' open race here went to Rosemary Vickery on *Master Straight*.

1984 was the year that Neale Doughty from Kenfig Hill won the Grand National on *Hallo Dandy* and Bridgend's Paul Hamer, who used to compete against him at local gymkhanas when they were members of the Llangeinor Hunt, told me: "Neale is a very good friend of mine, and last year when he returned home, he came to visit me."

Under the heading 'Llewellyn Hunt Double' this is what I reported: "Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn landed a double at the Tredegar Farmers Hunt Point-To-Point – but not without some controversy."

Many racegoers felt Llewellyn's mount *Brock* was pipped on the line by Brian Price's *Shocker* in the members' race.

Gemmerley Jane simply hacked up in the men's open with Llewellyn looking over his shoulder for non-existent dangers on the run-in.

However, the members' race was a much closer affair with *Brock* winning by a short head from *Shocker* but many spectators were of the opinion that *Brock* had been headed on the line. *Shocker's* rider, Brian Price, also felt he had won.

Price's bad luck continued in the Maiden event when his mount *Captain Rhondo*, looking all over a winner, took a tumble three fences from home. The race was won by the Vale's Kevin Cousins on *Cliffland*.

Jenny Hembroe, aged 37, from Somerset, one of the few women riders to have ridden in the Grand National, made all the running on 14-

year-old *Captain Clover* in the ladies' open. The grey *Fonman*, ridden by Tim Bowen, took the Audi Prix De Chase qualifier and along with second and third placed *Two Girl* and *Lucky Avenue*, has qualified for the final at Sandown Park. Richard Mathias won the restricted on *Moonlight Alley*.

Abergavenny's Mark Richards, who was to be killed in a shooting accident when hunting drug barons while serving in the SAS, scored a five-lengths victory on Grenville Richards' *Fixed Price* at the Monmouthshire, where Joan Stephens rode a well-judged open race to land the ladies' open race.

Mark was a really nice chap and whenever I visit the Monmouthshire point-to-point, I think of him.

At the Vale of Clettwr, Bridgend's Paul Hamer took the adjacent on his brother Geoffrey's *Yellow Jersey* and Philip Mathias the men's open on *Norman Case*. Paul was also in good form at south Pembroke where he

had a double on *Price Commission* (maiden) and *Wine Talk* (open).

While at the Talybont, Gareth Perkins from Llanharan made all on *Reeman* to win the adjacent. There was a dead heat in the open between *Eggington* and *Sarem Kybo* (Tim Rooney) but many racegoers thought the former ridden by Brian Price had won outright.

There was also a dead-heat for first place in the Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National over four miles at the Pentyrch at Llantwit Major. And the two horses involved – *Loch Raven* and *Wine Talk* – used to be stable companions in Ireland when trained by Paul Doyle a few years earlier.

Tim Jones, now an official at meetings, made the news under the heading: 'It's Lucky 13 For Tim'.

Caerphilly schoolboy Tim Jones, aged 18, had his 13th ride in a point-to-point at the Llangeinor Hunt Steeplechases on Saturday and landed his first winner. Riding 10-

year-old bay gelding *Turntale*, a 16-1 outsider, Tim made most of the running to score a five-length win over *Matey* in the Adjacent Hunt's Steeplechase.

It was at the Llangeinor that his father Lloyd Jones was killed when the horse he was riding fell and rolled on top of him, 12 years ago. It was at this meeting that Paul Hamer won the members' on *Chevalgo*, John Parry-Keen the restricted on *Final Clear* and Tim Lewis the maiden on *Sporting Tack*.

Local riders Paul Hamer and John Thomas were involved in a controversial race at the Carmarthenshire and I wrote: "Hamer won the restricted open on *Chevalgo* by an official one-and-a-half lengths from *Montana Boy*, ridden by St Athan's John Thomas, but some racegoers thought the judge had made a mistake and that the 'runner-up' had passed the winning post in first place. Apparently, Thomas also thought he had won outright."

The season ended

with the Ystrad at Llantwit Major and under the heading: 'Kathy Serves Up A Long Shot', I revealed: "An 18-year-old Treforest catering student landed her first win. Riding her father's 10-year-old chestnut mare *Saddlers Queen*, the smallest horse in the race, Katherine Isaac scored a half-a-length victory over the pacemaking *Sackville* ridden by Cardiff's Caroline Evans. Katherine's father James Isaac, a former point-to-point rider himself, admitted to having a flutter on *Saddlers Queen* who was backed from 40-1 to 20s. *Saddlers Queen* was winning for the first time in seven years. At the previous Llantwit Major meeting, Katherine's brother Jeremy landed a gamble on *Grand Trianon* also owned by James Isaac."

At this meeting, Shan Morgan won the members' race on Mile Mark, Tim Rooney the restricted on *Polrone*, Mandy Lingard the ladies' open on *National Clover* and Paul Hamer

the maiden on *Immortal Man*. There was a dead-heat in the maiden race that year at the Pembrokehire between Cowbridge's John Llewellyn riding *Kate's Sister* and Carl Llewellyn on *Kilpeck*. Carl went on to ride two Grand National winners. Whatever happened to John Llewellyn?

Public Notices

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Riverlea Tractors Ltd trading as **Riverlea Ltd., Cardigan Road, Crymch, Pembrokehire SA41 3QX** is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To add an operating centre to keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers at **Unit 30, Vale Business Park, Llandow, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan CF71 7PF**.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representations must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

LICENSING ACT 2003 Section 34

Notice of Application to Vary a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT an application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a **VARIATION TO THE PREMISES LICENCE** in respect of the premises shown below: Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk

Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below: Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

Name of applicant: The Fairways Hotel. **Name and postal address of the premises:** The Fairways Hotel, West Drive, Portcaw CF36 3LS.

Details of the proposed variation: To enlarge our current licensable area to include the new orangery extension and also a new outside seating area at the front and side of the building as well as a roof terrace area directly above the orangery for the supply of alcohol.

Date by which representations must be made: 20th May, 2015. This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely April 23, 2015, for 28 consecutive days. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.

Llantwit Major junior rugby round-up



Llantwit Major under-7s.

SUNDAY saw Llantwit Major under-9s take part in tournament hosted by Llantwit Fadre.

The squad for the tournament was Braydan Griffiths, Thomas George, Lewys Ingram, Corey Cox, Brandon Harris, Dylan Brown, Thomas Lamerton, Flynn Barry, Carwyn John, Marcus Hanmer, Dafydd Morgan, Kelyn Joseph and Owen Richards. Calvin Williams did turn up but unfortunately as he injured himself during warm up didn't get to play!

All boys played fantastic rugby throughout the whole of the tournament and third place was a very well deserved result. Each and everyone of them played their absolute best.

Well done to Braydan for getting man of the match in the Llantwit v Pontyclun match, chosen by the independent referee, and Brandon for getting man of the match in the Llantwit v Rhydyfelin match, also chosen by the independent referee.

Scores for the tournament were Llantwit 5 Pontyclun 2; Llantwit 2 Llantwit Fadre 5; Llantwit 4 Abercwmboi 3 and Llantwit 2 Rhydyfelin 5.

Try scorers for the tournament were Flynn, Marcus, Carwyn, Brandon (2),

Braydan (3), Lewys (3) and two penalty tries.

The coaches and team manager were very impressed with the improvement that has been made as a team and as individuals - keep it up boys!

MG
The majority of the under-7s team now move up to under-8s for one more season of tag rugby before taking on the tackling game.

There are three from the squad who will be staying in under-7s next season but they need more players and more importantly a coach!

If your son or daughter would like to try their hand at tag rugby and are in either Year 2 or Year 1 from September then please look out for more details about the registration day.

If you would like to take on the challenge of coaching then please contact Mark Rees at mark.rees@ammoknights.lmrfc.org.uk

Team: Dylan Godsell, Ifan Lovejoy, Norah Griffiths, Maverick Jennings, Bledwyn Mitchem, Evan Boul, Jos Bourner, Kyle Pagano, Joel Harris, Theo Elsenburg, Bledwyn Daw, Oliver Ingram, Tomos Davies, Thomas Collins, Sam Whitbread, Aaron Moece, Lloyd Morgan, Keenan Faulkner and Ben Butterworth. **IG**

'NIPPERS' ENJOY TASTE OF COMPETITION



ABOVE: Llantwit Major Surf Lifesaving Club's 14 competitors who attended the British Competition.

ON Saturday, April 18, 14 nipper lifeguards from Llantwit Major Surf Lifesaving Club travelled to Milfield School in Somerset for the 2015 British Stillwater (pool) championships.

There were some nippers who experienced their first competition and others who were taking part for the last time before they become juniors.

A great experience was had by all and it was great to compete against not only clubs from Wales but Devon and Cornwall and further afield.

Each and every nipper competed brilliantly and the club, parents and coaches were very proud.

A special mention and big congratulations should go out to Connie Millar who not only won three golds in every individual event in her age group in the Welsh Championships in February, but repeated

ABOVE: The Nippers who will be moving to juniors at the end of the year.

her performance in the British Championships and brought home another three gold medals.

Good luck to Maisie Edwards, Wil Thomas and Louie John who say goodbye to nippers at the end of the year and move on to become juniors.

RIGHT: Connie Millar, British and Welsh Champion.



Fine day's racing at Ystradowen

JIMMY FROST, rider of the 1989 Grand National winner *Little Polvier*, said he enjoyed his visit to the Vale where he travelled from Devon to see his wife Nikki's *TheGreenDaleRocket* win the young horse maiden race.

Bridgend builder Roger Wilcox also had plenty to smile about at the Ystrad Taf Fechan Point-To-Point steeplechases at Ystradowen.

Roger won both open races with his only two horses, which he trains himself, and there cannot be too many occasions when an owner/trainer has landed both the men's open and the ladies' open races at the same meeting.

In the John Lovell Memorial Men's Open race, his eight-year-old bay gelding *Patrickton Boru*, which he owns in partnership with his great friend Bill Corrigan, who runs a fabrications and engineering company in Port Talbot, was ridden by Llanharan's Evan David who sent the 5-4 favourite into a clear lead three fences from home, and he went on to score by 20 lengths from recent course winner *Captain Scarlett* ridden by Welsh champion John Mathias.

In the ladies' open race for the Mandryka Challenge Trophy, *Lauberhorn*, who blotted his

copybook with a last fence fall at the Monmouthshire when just about leading eventual winner *Chesnut Annie* and *Fine Resolve*, came home five lengths ahead of the blinkered *Sangfroid* after *Lion On The Prowl*, who had jumped dangerously to the left at all his fences, ran out after jumping the 13th fence.

Winning rider Anna Metekohy said: "I was confident of catching him anyway, he was just a marker, something to aim at."

Lauberhorn also won the best turned out award, which is more than could be said about his jovial owner/trainer who is one of the real characters of the Welsh hunt-racing circuit.

Paul and Myfanwy Miles' prolific *Findlay's Find*, which had been beaten by just a length by *Highly Unlikely* at the South Pembrokeshire Easter Monday fixture after being stuck in his box for more than an hour in a traffic jam which caused him to sweat up that day, made the early running but was overtaken by *Molon Labe*, *Canshetrain* and *Cinaman* and appeared to have no chance three fences from the finish.

However, the nine-year-old, who was ridden by Hannah Lewis, ran on in astonishing style to win by three lengths from *Molon Labe*. "He just does things his own way," said Hannah and Myfanwy added:

"He likes to worry us but we will have to see if he goes for a repeat win of the Dudley Cup this year."

Former national champion rider James Tudor riding Steve Whistance's seven-year-old bay gelding *Railway Benefit* made every yard of the running to win the restricted by three parts of a length from *Distant Sound*.

Jimmy Frost, who rode the 1989 Grand National winner *Little Polvier*, saw his wife Nikki's *TheGreenDaleRocket* beat the pacemaking *Captain Camelot* by half-a-length in the young horse maiden after they had jumped the last fence together. The well backed six-year-old *By Oscar*, was ridden by the Vale of Glamorgan's Byron Moorcroft who said: "I was all out and my horse was definitely stopping."

The winner is owned by Mr Dave Williams who said: "This is my first winner. I bought him at the Ascot sales last summer and he was a bit backward but he has come on a lot since then." Mr Williams also admitted having a nice little touch on the horse.

Ogmore-by-the-Sea's Nick Williams, riding the best turned out *Woodpark*, a nine-year-old bay gelding, took the aged maiden by three parts of a length after jumping the last alongside the runner-up *Milys Delight* ridden by Will Gordon. These were the only two of the seven starters to complete the course.

The winning owner Mr Elvet Wilkins, from Amroth in west Wales, bought the horse from his daughter Lorna Williams, who said: "*Woodpark* was wearing cheek bands for the first time and they did the trick."

With all seven races being won by the favourites, it was little wonder that several bookies shut up shop before the last race.

BRIAN LEE

Basketballers' title success



AT the Wales basketball 3 v 3 championships on Saturday, April 25, local girls Georgia, Maisie and Niamh competed for the under-12 girls title.

After being undefeated in the group stages the girls went straight through to the final where they played superbly well to win the title, 8-0. The girls, who played for Cardiff Met Archers and train at Cardiff Met Cyncoed Campus have been undefeated in the girls matches all season.

Niamh, Georgia and Maisie are all also in the Wales under-14 basketball squad. A big thank you to coach Kojo, coach Beth and Cardiff Met Archers.

CH

LAST GASP DEFEAT FOR LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC

ON a clear Wednesday night Llantwit Major played host to Taffs Well.

This was a game where nothing was at stake and both sides wanted to run the ball and put on a spectacle. Blaine Thomas started with a bang and stole lineouts and made numerous yards with some barn storming runs.

It was reliable Ryan Evans who struck first by kicking a penalty. It wasn't long before he had a chance to extend the lead when Taffs Well ran out of defence but when Llantwit turned the ball over and tried to run it Taffs Well were adjudged to have deliberately knocked on and Ryan Evans extended the lead to 6-0.

Both sides continued with entertaining rugby and livewire wing Rhys Balmont was making his presence felt. From a good forward platform Gareth Watts took the ball on and with Shea driving on his shoulder they powered over the line for Gareth Watts to claim the try which Ryan Evans converted.

Taffs Well hit back immediately after securing the kick off. The defence was under immense pressure particularly trying to stop the front row players of Taffs Well who were by no means small and it took two players at least to bring them down.

With players tied up in rucks the gaps appeared and Taffs Well went on to claim a try that was converted. Llantwit regathered from the kick but a forced the pass allowed

Taffs Well to kick ahead and they won the race to cross for a try to take the score to 13-12 at halftime.

Llantwit started the second half the best and from the kick-off got the ball back and through some phases the ball found its way to Rhys Balmont who went over under the posts which Ryan Evans converted to extend the lead to 20-12.

With the game continuing to be open it went from end to end and Taffs Well had another kick ahead that evaded the home defence and allowed the visitors to claw back to within a point with a converted try.

It now became apparent that the permit players on loan to Taffs Well were used to a higher level as their pace and eye for a gap caught out the first line of defence on numerous occasions.

In a foray into Taffs Well half, Rob Grapes dropped a goal from fairly long range that dissected the posts.

It seemed the hosts were gaining the upper hand and from the kick-off Ryan Evans gave a flat pass to Marcus Pearce who only had a couple of defenders in front of him but the pass was adjudged to be forward much to the annoyance of the home crowd.

In a move a few minutes later Rob Grapes ghosted through a gap and maybe should have backed himself but looked for support and found it through hard working prop Geraint David; but with support slow in arriving the ball was turned over and Taffs Well cleared their

lines.

Then in a strange couple of minutes Rhys Dixon saw yellow for an alleged dangerous tackle but two off-the-ball incidents that saw Rhys David held back were missed.

Taffs Well piled on the pressure and they crossed for a try which was converted to take the lead 23-26.

Llantwit tried to hit back and drove upfield and with the pressure on at the scrum the first one saw Taffs Well front row pop up and the scrum was reset.

Then in the resultant scrum with Llantwit on the attack the body positions of the opposition saw the scrum wheel round and much to the astonishment of the home crowd and players, a penalty against Llantwit Major.

The line was cleared but Llantwit were given a penalty themselves and they opted to kick for the corner. Huw Williams, on permit from Llantrisant to his home club, was vocal in defence and attack and he got his just rewards when from the back of a driving maul he was at

the bottom of the pile to secure a score that took Llantwit back into the lead with a minute to go.

All that was needed was to secure the ball, have a couple of phases and boot it off to secure the victory, but unfortunately there was a mix up within the ranks and this resulted in a penalty for the visitors which they lined up at goal.

As the visiting player stepped towards the ball a Llantwit defender with a rush of blood charged toward the kicker, doing enough to put him off but alas this is not within the rules so the player was given a second opportunity to kick the goal which he did to win the game by a single point.

The sign of jubilation from the visitors can only be likened to victors after a Cup tie.

At the end of the season it is difficult to drive enthusiasm when there is little to play for but the boys of Llantwit Major gave their all on that Wednesday night and could have so easily taken the spoils if lady luck had been on their side.

NE

Sully Bridge Club results

SULLY Bridge Club Results for the week ending April 25 are as follows:

Monday, April 20: North/South - First, Diana Jones/Trish Tracy, 61.87; second, Vernon Pearn/Pam Sherman, 57.83; third, Pat Evans/Jayne Greatrex, 57.03. East/West - First, Alan Jones/Carolyn Matthews, 61.78; second, John Pikoulis/Anne Johns, 60.63; third, Merion Avon/Dorothy Foulkes, 53.67.

Wednesday, April 22: North/South - First, Carol James/Alan James, 69.01; second, Peter Millar/Trish Tracy, 60.63; third, Ev

Kerslake/Richard Alley, 55.75. East/West - First, John Pikoulis/Jayne Greatrex, 59.38; second, David Hopkins/Lilian Hopkins, 56.15; third, Una Gavin/Judy Collins, 54.69.

Saturday, April 25: North/South - First, Phillip Bottrell/Carol Cochlin, 60.56; second, Tony Cryer/Jennifer Cryer, 55.56; third, Mary Blackwell/Peter Blackwell, 49.44. East/West - First, Sue Knight/Brian Knight, 65.24; second, Jean Sparkes/Mary Carwright, 57.14; third, Una Gavin/Brenda Shepherd, 54.76.

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Blunder costs Evan's horse dear in Bowl

A blunder four fences from home by Patricktom Boru, which unseated Llanharan's Evan David, cost him at the least a place in the Dunraven Bowl.

The eight-year-old bay gelding appeared to be going well when challenging for the lead. However, it must be said that although the eventual winner Desertmore View, partnered by Welsh champion John Mathias, won by just two lengths from Kimora (Bradley Gibbs), it looked as though Mathias, who had won the previous year's race on Gale Force Oscar in astounding style, could have won a lot easier than the official distance suggested.

In fact, Mathias on dismounting told me: "We were travelling so well, it was embarrassing, and I could have won by a lot further." And I for one have no reason to doubt him.

Irish-bred Desertmore View, a seven-year-old bay gelding, is owned by Haverfordwest's Rachel Hooton and is trained by Marc Barber, who also saddled the runner-up Kimora, a 33-1 chance, which was ridden by Bradley Gibbs.

The third home, Andrew Leyshon's Fine Resolve, which finished a neck behind Kimora, was ridden by Marc's younger brother Matthew.

CONNOR BRINGS SEASON'S TOTAL TO 11
Connor Brace, grandson of David and Dawn Brace of the Dunraven Stud, at Pyle near Bridgend, brought his season's tally of wins to 11 when winning both pony races at the Tivyside and Carmarthenshire Hunts Point-To-Point Steeplechases and is in the lead for the national

title.
Connor, aged 13, won the 138cms race for riders aged 9-13 on his Molly and the 148cms race for riders aged 9 to 16 on Dont Tell Dai, having his revenge over his good friend Jack Tudor, aged, 12, from Merthyr Mawr, who was riding She's A Goodun and who had reversed those placings over the course on Easter Monday.

Michael Bowen, brother of Sean Bowen, who has won the National Hunt conditional riders' championship, saddled his first hat-trick at the meeting when winning the ladies' open race with Sir De Bean, the men's open with Bob's Law and the restricted with Mister Bricolage and Sean was there to see him do it.

Sir De Bean and Mister Bricolage were ridden by Pembrokeshire's Jodie Hughes and Bobs Law was partnered by Irishman Ciaran Gethings.

Elen Nicolas, aged 18, from Bangor in north Wales and who rides out for west Wales trainer Dai Rees, chalked up her first winner when landing the members' race on his 14-year-old Kisha King which beat Milled (Emma Moseley) by five lengths.

Bradley Gibbs took the maiden on the grey Master Ally which beat the favourite Brideberry by eight lengths. "He just ran away with me," said Bradley, who is enjoying a good season.

This Saturday, May 2, the Tredegar Farmers hold their annual point-to-point races over the popular Lower Machen Course near Rudry.

A number of horses and riders from the Vale will be taking part and an exciting afternoon's racing is promised; the first race is at 2pm.

BRIAN LEE

Cottrell seniors enjoy away day

PETERSTONE Lakes Golf Club situated on the borders of Glamorgan and Gwent proved a very suitable venue for members of the senior's section of Cottrell Park to enjoy their spring away day, well organised by society captain Bill Aspinall.

Steve Charlton with 37 stableford points won the individual competition with Viv Helyar and John Stacey finishing second and third with 35 points.

Bryan Pritchard,

Henry Filer and Steve Charlton won the team competition with 99 points followed by Richard Daniels, Steve Cross and Alan Gregson who accumulated 91 points.

In third place, also with 91 points, were David Stephenson, David Hawkins and Rev Don Williams who also returned home with the longest drive prize.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were John Clarke and David Green, and Alan Gregson was closest to the pin with his second shot to the challenging par 4 closing hole.

T.McC



Winning golfers Viv Helyar, Steve Charlton, captain Bill Aspinall and John Stacey.

Barry RFC senior round-up

BARRY 3rd XV finished their season by a touring side from Mold on a brisk Saturday afternoon.

With numerous players unavailable at this stage of the season, manager Frank Greig handed senior debuts to George Chucas out of position on the wing and Jamie Leech at scrum-half. There were also recalls for vets Andrew Prosser, Andy Moffat, Charlie Chucas and Peter Griffiths; Ken Chow captained the side from full-back.

The visitors began slowly and Barry exploited this lethargy with some probing runs by Dave Evans, Neil Bragg and Jordan Clarke. This put Mold under early pressure.

A strong run from Nick Rolfe saw Barry reach the opposition's 22 and Chow, filling in as emergency scrum-half, sniped through to score underneath the posts to open the scoring. Evans somehow missed the conversion.

Despite playing against the slope and wind, Barry were making inroads into the Mold defence every time they got ball in hand.

With new impetus, Vale United tried to get the equaliser to force extra time but VIFC held on to take the Barry Cup, making them treble winners after winning the Supporters Cup and Division 1 title, which was presented to them after the match. Final score VIFC 2, Vale United 1.

MD

Leech for more tries.

Mold battled on bravely and were justly rewarded with an opportunistic try which went unconverted before the break, but Barry struck back with another try from debutant Leech.

Greig emptied the bench at halftime, with Joff Williams making his last appearance for the club. Charlie and Joe Chucas would also enter the fray, joining George for a family get-together on the pitch.

Tries came and went in the second half, with the plucky Mold side rewarded with three more tries, while Barry turned the screw in open play, Leech completing his hat-trick.

There was also a first try for the club by Jordan Clarke, who was outstanding in attack and defence, and Dave Evans completed his brace with the last play of the game. Williams failed to kick the conversion with the final score 50-24.

The score ultimately was irrelevant as both sets of players embraced the social nature of grass roots rugby. The 3rd XV

will hope for similar spirit when next season begins.

Team: Chow ©; Rees, Bragg, Clarke, G Chucas; D Evans, Leech; Hall, Prosser, Jones; Moffat, Woodfin; Rolfe, Betts, J Evans. Replacements: C Chucas, Williams, Harrison, Griffiths, J Chucas, Greig. Man of the match: Moffat.

BARRY 2ND XV 22 LLANISHEN 2ND XV 60

Barry 2nd XV travelled to the capital in mid-week to face Llanishen 2nd XV in the Mallet Cup, hoping to secure another appearance in a final after last year's heroics in the East District Cup.

However, this proved a game too far for a depleted squad missing numerous players in key positions. Coach Rhidian Scott and Ken Chow were forced to select players out of position and last minute withdrawals meant that Chow himself was on the bench.

The result was that

Llanishen scored 27 unanswered points in the first quarter of the game before Barry had any meaningful possession.

With a make-shift front row and a new half-back partnership, it was no surprise when the green-and-whites spent most of the game defending against an unrecognisable Llanishen side.

Barry finally got on the scoresheet when a smart exchange between Dimond and Hamonda gave Neil Bragg the chance out wide, and he beat his defender comfortably to score his second try in as many games; Dave Evans failed with the conversion.

Barry threw on Morris and Pugh at halftime and there was a seismic shift in momentum briefly after the interval.

First, Gerwyn Pugh crossed from close range for an unconverted score, before good play in midfield gave Rhys Knapman the opportunity to score under the posts. Evans was successful with the conversion this time.

The fragility of the scrum continued to haunt Barry as they conceded a penalty try from the set piece, and despite Pugh scoring his second try out wide which went unconverted, the green-and-whites had ran out of gas at the end of a long season and the match was a formality.

The management would like to thank the effort and commitment shown by all the players, some of whom were called up less than 24 hours before kick-off.

This has been a trademark of the 2nd XV all season and players, management and spectators alike will like to see this continued next season.

Team: Poole; Knapman, Evans, Hamonda, Bragg; Dimond, Mephram; McTavish, Ring, Pirso; Rolfe, Dutton; Jones ©, Miles, Goodfellow. Replacements: Hall, Morris, Pugh, Clarke, substitute not used: Chow. Man of the match: Pugh.

KC

LAST weekend saw the climax of the Vale of Glamorgan Association Football League finals, starting with the Billy Butlin Cup on Friday, April 24.

WELL DONE LILY!



BARRY YMCA gymnast Lily Foscolo recently achieved a distinction which is the highest level she could achieve - congratulations Lily!

KD

The Year 9 final saw Cogan Coronation FC take on Sully Sports FC. Ethan Mulchay struck first for Sully with the only goal of the first half. Sully scored two more in the second half via Adam Nielson and Will Hardy. Final score Cogan Coronation FC 0, Sully Sports Reds 3.

On Sunday, the day started with the last Junior Cup final with the Year 10 final between Holton Road FC and Sully Sports FC for the Steve Williams Cup.

Sully controlled the game and managed to get in at halftime two goals to the good with goals from Kyle Williams and Joe Collins.

A third in the second half from Richard Lee was enough to gain the trophy. Final score Holton Road FC 0, Sully Sports FC 3.

Finally, the main

trophy of the league was played for with the Barry Cup being contested between Division 1 champions VIFC taking on Division 2 runners-up Vale United FC.

An early goal from Nicky Cox saw VIFC take an early lead which was the halftime score during a close match. Cox - who was also named man of the match - scored a second half goal to put one VIFC hand on the trophy, but a late penalty for Vale United saw Richard Evans pull one back.

With new impetus, Vale United tried to get the equaliser to force extra time but VIFC held on to take the Barry Cup, making them treble winners after winning the Supporters Cup and Division 1 title, which was presented to them after the match. Final score VIFC 2, Vale United 1.

MD

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Bridgend Athletic earns a rare double with win over Tondy

AN improved performance in the last quarter of the match allowed Bridgend Athletic to register a rare double over local rivals Tondy at Pandy Park, winning 12-3.

In the last few seasons it has been the Waterwheelers who have completed the double over the Athletic despite finishing below them in the league.

There's no accounting for form in local derbies and this fixture was no exception to the rule. The Athletic team led by captain Sean Williams were under no illusions regarding the task facing them at Tondy and started the game with the strong blustery wind slightly in their favour, playing towards the River Ogmore.

The majority of the early exchanges went their way and their scrum had the edge over their opponents. Nevertheless, they were unable to exert any telling influence on the game. This encouraged the home team, ably led by Hywel Davies, and with coach Dean Fitzgerald making a rare appearance and using his experience to disconcert the opposition, they were on the front foot for much of the half as they refused to let the Athletic settle on the ball.

Despite repelling the Tondy attacks the visitors were unable to get a foothold in their opponent's half. A penalty for playing the ball in front of his own player was given away right on halfway and despite the windy conditions home fly-half Paul Smithson was unerring in sending the ball through the posts for the only score of the half.

Although Tondy came very close to scoring as time ran out, the ball was held up over the line.

In the first half there had been a catalogue of unforced errors and poor

decision making that had meant that half-backs Rob Evans and Jake Williams were struggling to get the line moving.

The front row of props Wayne Fooks and Matthew Norman and hooker Nathan Holman held dominance over their immediate opponents and locks Lloyd Griffiths and Tom Penry-Ellis were working manfully in all aspects.

Despite this there was a distinct lack of cohesion throughout the team and the back row of captain Sean Williams, Ben Howe and veteran No. 8 Griff Davies, having the season of his life, were unable to command the loose ball as they have done so often this season.

This meant that dangerous runners such as in-form centre Ryan Owen rarely saw clean ball and were unable to influence the play.

As the second half wore on the Athletic scrum continued to dominate but still there were lots of mistakes from both sides and little constructive play.

As the final quarter of the game approached the Athletic managed to get some counterattacks on the go and twice spread the ball wide to speedy Dan Howells, but the full-back was well shepherded by his opposite number.

Experienced hooker Simon Mustoe and scrum-half Aid Thomas replaced Nathan Holman and Stuart Griffiths with Jake Williams moving to the wing. A series of penalties led to a lineup that the visiting pack drove forward effectively only for Tondy captain Hywel Davies to be given a yellow card for collapsing the maul.

Some smart drives and a quick transfer of the ball allowed Mustoe to crash over in the corner for a try to give the Athletic the lead.

The Athletic were able to continue their dominance and forced a scrum just 10 metres



Dan Howells kicks ahead for the Athletic.
PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS



Ben Howe fights his way through Tondy tacklers.

from their opponent's line. They earned a penalty and surprisingly to the spectators, opted for the line and attempted to drive over. Tondy repelled them manfully and cleared back over halfway.

Athletic fly-half Rob Evans chose this moment to chip the defence and good pressure by him and Tom Morgan caused panic in the defence. The ball was kicked on and as Tondy failed to clear, Ben Howe seized on the loose ball to score a try that Evans duly converted with a magnificent kick from near the touchline. This allowed the Athletic to run out winners, if not totally convincingly.

Coach Ian Greenslade felt that his team had been unable to control the ball as they would

have liked but felt that overall they deserved their win.

This defeat means that Tondy will have to get a result from their last two games against first placed Bargoed and third placed Merthyr and hope that Llanharan do not win their final game of the season against Narberth on May 9 in order to avoid relegation.

The Athletic will finish the season in eighth place regardless of any further results and this Saturday welcome Narberth to the Brewery Field (kick off 2.30pm).

All former players or officials of Bridgend Athletic are cordially invited to attend the match and return to the Athletic's Eweny Road headquarters for a post-match buffet and an opportunity to catch-up

with old friends and reminisce of days gone by.

MD
TONDY 2ND XV 13
BRIDGEND
ATHLETIC
2ND XV 22

Bridgend Athletic 2nd XV emulated their 1st XV in recording a seasonal double over close neighbours Tondy.

They secured a bonus point win scoring four tries in a 22-13 victory through Harry Griffiths (2), Nick Jones and Jamie Sidford; Scott Govan weighed in with one conversion.

This was their ninth win in 10 league games with points for total of 325 and 132 against. The team also averaged five tries per league game with 52 tries for and 18 against.

Sports under-15s round off their season with win

BRIDGEND Sports' under-15s rounded off a successful season with a hard fought 10-7 victory away to Canton.

This win was the Sports' 12th victory of the season which represents a vast improvement from last year. The Sports had a squad of 21 for their final fixture of the season.

The first half in particular was a stop-start affair which did not favour the Sports in their bid to play an attacking and ruthless brand of rugby which they have demonstrated in their past few games.

Canton enjoyed the majority of the early territory and the Sports defence did well to keep their hosts at bay for a while, but inevitably Canton opened the scoring from close range when one of the players ran through a gap in the Sports defence to score just to the right of the posts.

The Sports then responded with some play of their own deep inside the Canton 22 metre line and were unlucky not to equalise after a well-worked scrum nearly paid off. The Sports then closed out the remainder of the half to go into halftime trailing by the slender margin of seven points.

Despite the Sports' first half deficit, the boys were still fairly confident of winning the match as they all had the ability to turn their performance up a gear against an average Canton side.

Just a few minutes into the second half, the Sports found an opening into the game when Isaac Morris made a strong run down the left hand side of the pitch to then play in Matthew Biggs who scored his 11th try of the season.

The Sports were now trailing by only two points and the Sports were now clearly playing with lots of confidence and were now looking more likely to win the game than Canton.

The winning moment soon came when Isaac Morris made yet another superb run which he nearly scored from, for the ball to then be filtered out to hooker Rhys Pearce who touched down to give the Sports a 10-7 lead.

The Sports then showed some immense character to close out the game, and overall, this was yet another excellent result for the Sports as the boys showed some great effort, as always, to come back and win what was a tight encounter.

TP

Latest news from the Bridgend bridge club

CONGRATULATIONS to Linda Jenkins and Teresa Griffiths (pictured) for achieving top scores at both Thursday afternoon and Friday evening sessions.

They only commenced learning bridge 18 months ago, and tribute must be paid to their teacher John Evans, and other senior club players for their continuing mentoring and support.

If you want to enjoy a new interest and learn bridge, there will be new beginner sessions commencing in September. Further information and contact details will be posted nearer the time.

The full results for recent events are: Wednesday, April 15: 1st Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage, 2nd Linda Pinnock and Denis Mottram, 3rd Norma and David Newman. Winners on handicap Linda Pinnock and Denis Mottram.

Thursday, April 16: 1st Teresa Griffiths and Linda Jenkins, 2nd David Phillips and Eileen Williams, 3rd Frances Heslin and Dee Finch. Winners on handicap Frances Heslin and Dee Finch.

Friday, April 17: North/South - 1st Linda Jenkins and Teresa Griffiths, 2nd John Beard and Deborah Davies, 3rd Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas. Winners on handicap Linda Jenkins and Teresa Griffiths. East/West - 1st Glyn Williams and Vida Halford, 2nd Susan Hunt and Colin Lewis, 3rd



Debbie and Dave Lea. Winners on handicap Susan Hunt and Colin Lewis.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Noltan Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons 2pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge. Further information can be obtained by calling Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

Members can also take advantage of the 'tip of the week' on the club website, primarily to assist new players and improvers - this can be found under Bridge Lessons in the left hand menu.

TG



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